ANIMAL Planet series host Steve Irwin. REUTERS

Stingray kills Aussie 'croc hunter'

SYDNEY—WORLD-renowned Australian "crocodile hunter" and television environmentalist Steve Irwin was killed by a stingray

STINGRAY/A15

BUSINESS / B1

Foreign buying of stocks , bonds boosts peso to 50.48:$1

SPORTS / A23

Tearful farewell for tennis legend Andre Agassi

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Amid boos, howls, dark horse crashes out of 'Rock Star'

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 5, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 269 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Siphoning oil feasible option, says DND chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

EFFORTS TO SALVAGE THE MT SOLAR I WILL be put on hold for the next couple of days as authorities figure out how best to prevent the remaining oil in the tanker from further damaging the Guimaras Strait.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., who chairs Task Force Guimaras, said the group

SIPHONING/A15

GMA sets meeting with terror expert

Officials reassess security system

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Dizon

THE ANTITERROR EXPERT who raised a storm when he said he had smuggled bomb components onto a domestic airliner as part of a test is set to meet with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss security matters.

"He could give a lot of pointers on security measures," the President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, told reporters yesterday.

"For us, we are not saying it's right or wrong. At the least, we can hear him out. He did nothing illegal, except that he did not coordinate with the authorities and security personnel, but what he did was meant to strengthen our security," Defensor said, without specifying whether the man had actually brought explosive materials with him when he boarded the plane.

Despite statements from some embarrassed aviation officials that the man who breached airport security was carrying only dummy materials, further INQUIRER checks into the daring feat confirmed this newspaper's story that the man had, indeed, sneaked actual components of a bomb onto the plane.

No date has been announced

GMA SETS/A8

JOBS-SKILLS MISMATCH

Tech-voc schools way to go in globalization

-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

By Nikko Dizon

(First of a series)

ALLYSON FERNANDEZ REMEMBERS how friends scoffed at her decision to enroll in a technical-vocational (tech-voc) school to learn how to make practical tools used in factories.

This year's high school valedictorian of the Wesleyan Academy in Cainta, Rizal, Fernandez dreams of becoming a robotics engineer someday. It's no surprise then that her going to the tech-voc school run by the Meralco Foundation Inc. (MFI) has raised eyebrows.

"They have this idea that without a college degree, I have nowhere to go," says the 17-year-old Fernandez.

But the instrumentation technology scholar at the MFI is certain that when she completes her course in three years, she will easily find employment as an industrial technician—one of 600,000 jobs available at the moment but which cannot all be filled due to the lack of qualified workers.

It's an irony in a country with a high unemployment rate.

Colleges and universities turn out thousands of graduates year in and year out. Few of them are the types needed in mostly blue-collar jobs where there's a current employment glut.

It's a phenomenon known as a "jobs-skills mismatch," something that worries education officials and the business community.

Fernandez has mapped out her ca-

TECH-VOC/A8

RYAN LIM

HIGH school valedictorian Allyson Fernandez, an instrumentation technology scholar at the Meralco Foundation Inc., hopes for a faster route to employment as an industrial technician.

Solon links Defensor to nursing jobs mess

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF Michael Defensor was the Cabinet official who acted as the "*padrino*" of a recruitment agency that allegedly duped 28 Filipino nurses into working in hospitals in New York City but without receiving the pay and benefits that the agency had promised them.

In a privilege speech, Pimentel said Defensor's intervention led to the lifting of a preventive suspension imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on the Manila-based Sentosa Recruitment Agency (SRA).

The nurses, most of whom were licensed doctors in the Philippines, had filed a complaint with the POEA and with the National Labor Relations Commission that led to the suspension of Sentosa's license.

The group included Elmer Reyes Jacinto, topnotcher in the 2004 medical board exams who decided to leave the country and work in the United States as a nurse. The nurses have sought the revocation of their contract with SRA.

Pimentel said SRA had promised them salaries ranging from $21 to $35 per hour, medical coverage, relocation and housing allowances, free malpractice insurance, free airfare to New York, reimbursement of processing certification and licensure fees, flexible work schedules from eight to 12 hours, generous shift differentials and comprehensive training.

But when they got to New York, the nurses were not only shortchanged, they were also passed from one agency to another.

Pimentel said that after their arrival in New York, the nurses were turned over to another entity—Sentosa Bent Philipson (SBP), which in turn placed the nurses in the custody of Sentosa Care LLC, a limited liability company that runs nursing homes in New York.

A third entity, called Prompt Nursing Employment Agency/Sentosa Services, came into

SOLON/A4

Business urges focus on English, Science, Math

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BIG BUSINESSMEN ARE GRUMBLING: Not enough Filipino college graduates are meeting their job requirements.

Fears also abound in the business community that if Filipino students do not shape up, particularly in English, Science and Math, they will consign their country to be an also-ran economy in Asia.

"There was a time in the mid-50s when the Philippines was in the same league as Japan economically and academics-wise," says Lucio Tan, one of the country's wealthiest industrialists.

"Fifty years down the road, we are not only lagging behind, we are almost dead last in the Asean region," he says, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"Our leaders and educators know what went wrong; they just don't have the political will to correct the mistakes of the past," he adds.

Alfred Ty, vice president of the Metrobank Foundation, has a similar plaint.

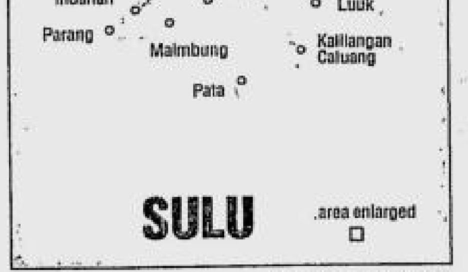
"Most graduates are not well-prepared for the realities of the job market," Ty says. "Thus, a lot end up jobless. The needs of industries and college preparation do not match and continue to drift apart."

Lance Gokongwei, president of JG Summit Holdings Inc., says industries need more blue-

BUSINESS/A8

6 Marines killed; 20 hurt in Sulu clash

AFP vs Abu Sayyaf



INQMAP: L.A. MISTADES

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SIX MARINES WERE KILLED and 20 others were wounded yesterday in the fiercest clash between the military and the Abu Sayyaf since renewed operations were launched last month against Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, officials said.

Troops from the 3rd Marine Brigade engaged about 200 Abu Sayyaf bandits in a three-hour close-quarter gun battle that started at 4:30 a.m. in the jungles of Barangay Tugas in Patikul, Sulu.

MG-520 attack helicopters also fired rockets at suspected Abu Sayyaf hideouts.

The heavy concentration of Abu Sayyaf bandits in the area indicated that Janjalani and other "high-value targets" were still in Sulu, Col. Allan Luga, chief of the Armed Forces Operations Center, said at a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

"The rough estimate of the intelligence (unit) is about 200 followers are protecting the high-value targets," Luga said.

He said Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Solaiman, Radullan Sahiron and Isnilon Hapilon, as well as Jemaah Islamiyah members Umar Patek and Dolmatin, who were being hunted for their alleged involvement in the 2002 Bali bombings, were believed to be with Janjalani.

"The area is thickly forested. It was close-combat fighting. Soldiers were just five meters away from the targets," said Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan.

6 MARINES / A6

Plastic bag or 'bayong'? Celebrities pick the latter

BOY BAYONG
Eco-Friendly
Eco Waste Coalition

RAFFY LERMA

MS EARTH Cathy Untalan and an environmentalist bat for "bayong."

By Blanche S. Rivera

CELEBRITIES GAVE shopping a new twist yesterday when they declined plastic bags at the supermarket and instead brought out *bayongs* (bags or sacks made of *buri* palm leaves), baskets and cloth bags for the baggers to fill with their groceries.

PLASTIC/A6

O... WALA NANG PLASTIKAN!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over the western section of Visayas and Central Mindanao. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/04/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Con-Ass' hearing starts today in House

'Nobody can stop us now but the Supreme Court'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL BEgin today public hearings in support of its leadership's attempt to convene the body into a Constituent Assembly (Con-Ass) to amend the Constitution and change the form of government to a parliamentary system.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, told the INQUIRER more than 198 signatures of congressmen supporting Charter change had been obtained.

"But we're not concerned with signatures anymore. We can have as many as 200 but these are just commitments. We need 195 warm bodies in the plenary," Jaraula said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said 204 congressmen supported Con-Ass. "Nobody can stop us now but the Supreme Court," he said.

Jaraula's committee will hold a public hearing this morning for the sole purpose of adopting the Charter change resolution.

"We're looking at one month for the House to complete its job from the committee to the plenary," said Jaraula, Speaker Jose de Venecia's point-man in the administration's initiative to change the form of government.

Jaraula appeared undaunted about the fate of the people's initiative petition also aimed at revising the Constitution filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines in the Commission on Elections.

The poll body on Thursday ruled unanimously against the petition, citing the permanent injunction issued by the Supreme Court in 1997 against the political exercise for lack of an enabling law.

"The people's initiative and constituent assembly can go on simultaneously," Jaraula said.

Unequivocal language

He pointed out, however, that the former was limited to amending the form of government, or Articles 6 and 7, while the latter contemplated a revision of the entire Constitution.

De Venecia and pro-Charter change advocates in the House have repeatedly said that Article 17, Section 1, of the Constitution was clear and unequivocal in its language that "Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members," may propose to change the Charter.

According to De Venecia, only 194 signatures were needed to comply with the constitutional requirement, with both chambers of Congress voting as one.

But the anti-Cha-cha Senate insists the voting should be separate to preclude the larger lower chamber from gaining the upper hand in any proposed amendments.

The Senate favors instead the longer and more expensive constitutional convention, De Venecia said.

They never signed

Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros, meanwhile, called on the House leadership yesterday to reveal the names of all the congressmen who had signed the resolution calling for a Con-Ass after she and two party-mates were named as its co-authors despite their vehement opposition to Charter change.

Hontiveros called on the Jaraula committee to verify if all those who had signed House Resolution 1230 really supported Cha-cha.

"It is the duty of all members of Congress to reveal to the public their stand on Charter change," Hontiveros said.

"At the same time, there seems to be a need to verify if all those included in the majority's list are actually supportive of the resolution," she said.

Hontiveros said she discovered last week that she and fellow Akbayan party-list Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales and Mario Aguja had been "surreptitiously declared" as co-authors of HR 1230 despite their opposition to Cha-cha.

"If we who have expressed staunch opposition to Charter change were considered co-authors of HR 1230, how sure then is the majority of the veracity of the signatures?" Hontiveros said.

She said the inclusion of their names was not "astonishing" since under the "so-called people's initiative, citizens who are already six feet under have miraculously been made to sign the petition."

She also warned the House against "flouting the Constitution" by amending it without the participation of the Senate.

"Should the majority insist on amending the Constitution without the concurrence of the Senate, we are definitely ready to bring the case to the Supreme Court," she said. *With Philip C. Tubeza*

Former Marines chief transferred to guarded facility

By Dona Pazzibugan

MIRANDA

EX-MARINE COMMANDANT Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda was transferred yesterday to a Navy custodial center in Fort Bonifacio to join 12 of his former officers who are facing possible court martial for the Feb. 24 coup plot.

Miranda, the highest-ranking officer implicated in the plot, was brought to the staff house at the Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS) around noon. He was heavily guarded.

The staff house had been converted into a custodial center for the 13 Marine officers under pretrial investigation for attempted mutiny.

Miranda was transferred to the BNS upon orders of Navy Flag Officer in Command, Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, according to a Navy spokesman.

"General Miranda will be under the custody of the FOIC," said Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo.

Miranda had been staying in his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo since Feb. 26, when he was unceremoniously sacked due to his alleged involvement in the plan to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

His relief led to a six-hour standoff at the Marine headquarters led by Col. Ariel Querubin, one of the alleged principal instigators of the foiled coup.

Querubin was brought to the staff house last Aug. 17.

Meanwhile the 11 other Marine officers linked to the plot including former key officials such as former chief of staff Col. Orlando De Leon, former operations chief Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon and former plans chief Lt. Col. Armando Banez, have been restricted to the staff house since Aug. 7.

Bacordo said Miranda's transfer was "delayed because of [an] accommodation problem."

Some repairs were made in the staff house to build a separate room for Miranda, he said.

Mayuga had chosen the BNS staff house as the custodial center over the detention facility in Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite City.

The Marines' situation is a far cry from that of former Scout Ranger commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 24 of his officers similarly linked to the coup plot.

They have have been detained in a maximum security detention facility in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, since July.

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE
Begin your *own* tradition.

You never actually
own a Patek Philippe.

✻

You merely look
after it for the *next*
generation.

The first ever Patek Philippe
self-winding Chronograph with innovative
60-minute and 12-hour mono counter
is combined with the patented Annual
Calendar and housed in a platinum
case with sapphire crystal back. Ref. 5960P.
Tel: (65) 6732 1506. www.patek.com

GMA to Cayetano: Be man enough to admit mistake

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday took on Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, challenging him to be "man enough to admit his mistake" after he accused her and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, of maintaining a secret bank account in Germany in the millions of dollars.

In an unprecedented move, the President held a press conference on government television to denounce Cayetano and to ask him to "stop besmirching our family's name and reputation to advance his own political agenda."

It was the first time President Arroyo had come out strongly against an opponent as well as the first time she had spoken out on the subject that had her husband flying to Germany to secure a certification from the HypoVereinsbank in Munich that he did not have an account there.

The President stayed long enough at the news conference to read her statement after which she left it to her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, to answer reporters' questions.

She made the statement ahead of a five-nation trip next week that includes three European countries.

As the First Gentleman and their lawyers looked on, the President said she wanted to tell the nation of the "grave injustice done to my family" by Cayetano whom she accused of "peddl(ing) a lie."

"I am breaking my silence because I can no longer allow my family to be pilloried in this manner by a man who I had thought to bear the honor and principle of a respected father and a senator of the republic," she said, referring to Cayetano's late father, Sen. Renato Cayetano.

"In making this statement today, I wish to share the indignation of honest, trustworthy and hardworking Filipinos who are smeared and libeled, and whose dignity is assaulted by gossip and intrigue," Ms Arroyo said.

She said Cayetano "should be man enough to admit his mistake."

Macalintal said the President just wanted to come clean about the matter, when asked why she had to address the issue.

"The President had to make a statement because it involved the honor and integrity of her family, and I don't think we could just take this matter lying down and without the President saying something about it," Macalintal told reporters.

"Otherwise, if she did not speak out, her silence might be misconstrued as an admission of guilt," he said in Filipino.

With the President speaking out on the subject, her chief of staff Michael Defensor said the public might see and change its opinion about the truth of the matter.

Asked if the administration would still support Cayetano – who ran under the administration coalition three years ago – if he ran for higher office next year, Defensor replied in the negative.

"I think it's moot and academic that he can't be part of this administration, in particular in the Senate fight," he said. "We will both lose credibility if we take him in and if he joins us."

President in Helsinki for Asem Summit

By Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo will be in Helsinki with at most 37 other heads of state for the biennial Asia-Europe Meeting, incidentally when the global community marks the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

She will be one of the lead speakers in the 6th Asem Summit on Sept. 10 and 11, attending as both Philippine president and current chair of the Association of Southeast East Asian Nations, according to Ambassador Riitta Resch of the host country Finland.

Brief meeting

A brief meeting between Ms Arroyo and Finnish President Tarja Halonen has also been arranged, a first between the two leaders, Resch told reporters yesterday.

Since the last day of the summit falls on the 9/11 anniversary, the program will include solemnities in memory of the victims of the 2001 tragedy in the United States as well as of other terrorist attacks around the world, she added.

In the same press briefing, Ambassador Jan de Kok, head of the European Commission Delegation to the Philippines, said Ms Arroyo will meet after the summit with EC President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels on the afternoon of Sept. 12.

Trade talks

Expected to be discussed are draft RP-EU agreements related to trade, investments, tourism, cooperation of financial institutions, information technology, energy, health, migration, and the war on illegal drugs, among others, de Kok said.

Asked if human rights violations in the Philippines, notably the string of unsolved killings of Filipino leftist and journalists, would be a concern possibly to be raised during the Ms Arroyo's meeting with the EC leadership, de Kok said: "You have to put it into context. We are concerned about certain issues pertaining to human rights in the Philippines, but we are equally, sometimes even more concerned, about certain human rights issues in some of the other Asean countries."

"It would be very natural that these things are discussed," he added. "From the commission's point of view it's an issue but it's one of many issues we would like to discuss. And I can tell you there are far more issues where we agree than there are issues where we disagree."

Cash for a new flat screen TV.
Fast. Easy. No collateral.

Get a chance to Win a Ford Focus

From August 23 to October 23, 2006 get a CitiFinancial loan and get a chance to win a Ford Focus 1.6L or a fabulous trip to Boracay or Palawan.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2814 series of 2006.

Call CitiFinancial now at 750-0322
or Text CASH & send to:
2327 for Globe or
0917-890-2327 for Smart & Sun Cellular.

Ford PERSONAL LOANS SEAIR

citi financial

A member of citigroup

*All Loans subject to Credit Standards, Terms and Conditions.

STOP PERSISTENT ACNE

Destroy The Active Acne Bacteria Where It Starts. Enjoy Clear, Healthier Skin.

Treat pimples with LightCure Acne Therapy

Erase acne scars with Diamond Peel

Protect skin with Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial

Your graduation picture. Your wedding. Your 40th birthday party. All these would have been perfect if not for such an untimely annoyance: acne.

Often it occurs on the day when you least want it on your face, like if you are meeting someone you want to impress or will be part of an event involving a lot of pictures getting taken. Acne can start as early as your adolescent years, and can follow you right through adulthood. Whether you're 16, 29 or 40, acne still has the same effect on you: lowered self-esteem, a bad mood and most likely, a self-conscious behavior.

Facial Care Centre offers a 3-step surefire way to permanently combat any type of acne. The first step involves treating the existing acne. In order to eliminate existing pimples and acne cysts, **LightCure Acne Therapy** is a highly effective treatment. It is recommended for mild, moderate and heavy acne. It uses the emission of exact wavelengths of light at the most effective intensity for complete destruction of acne bacteria. LightCure works by targeting sebaceous glands where there are abnormal bacteria responsible for the inflammation of acne lesions. The high-intensity light emitted by LightCure starts a chemical reaction that destroys the acne bacteria without any damage to the normal skin. LightCure is painless, and works faster than conventional treatments like oral antibiotics, hormonal pills, retinoids and injections.

Once the acne has been eliminated, the second step of erasing acne scars follows. Through the **Diamond Peel**, acne scars and other blemishes can be successfully removed. With the use of a diamond dust-coated wand, the skin is exfoliated by the combined action of diamond chips and the cleaning action of a vacuum. As a result, the dead cells in the topmost layer of the skin are removed, leaving a clearer new layer that is smoother and even. Unlike other skin peeling methods, the Diamond Peel requires no downtime and no anesthesia is necessary in performing the procedure. It is non-surgical, non-invasive, extremely safe and effective.

The final step is the maintenance of the new skin and the prevention of future acne breakouts. The **Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial** is a highly intensive facial that uses the finest natural ingredients to avoid the onset of new acne. It also involves a mild exfoliating method to rid the skin of impurities that are not easily removed by superficial washing and cleansing. Regular treatments ensure smooth, clear, acne-free skin.

With technologically advanced treatments, Facial Care Centre ensures effective acne remedies no matter how severe the case is. The treatments not only eliminate pimples and other blemishes, but will give a healthier skin complexion as well. End your battle with acne today, no matter what age you are. **Call Facial Care for a free consultation at 892-SKIN (7546).**

FREE
Acne Clarifying Programme
upon enrollment from Sept. 4-9, 2006 only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #3134, Series of 2006.

PLEASE CUT & SAVE THIS AD
ONE-TIME PRESS RELEASE ONLY

CENTER FOR
GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

in collaboration with

EMBASSY OF INDIA
INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

presents

DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA
THE RIGHT WAY

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006 * PENINSULA MANILA, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES * 8:00AM to 5:30PM

The 1-day seminar is aimed at helping businessmen understand the ways and procedures of doing business in India by providing participants with working knowledge of the investment environment opportunities, communication protocols, and information on the legal, accounting, and taxation frameworks.

Discussions will include manufacturing, marketing and distribution activities as well as the BPO industry. In addition, participants will gain valuable insight into how to collaborate and partner with Indian companies. Know the rules. Explore the opportunities!

Who should attend:
- Business Leaders/Owners
- Entrepreneurs
- Business Stakeholders
- Business Consultants
- Those who seek new opportunities and plan to do business in India

Business Landscape: Doing Business in India
By: Vikesh Mehta, Senior Partner, Grant Thornton Int'l., India

Business Insights and Experiences in Manufacturing
By: S.H. Venkataraman, Country Manager, Indian Immunologicals

Business Insights and Lessons in Effective Marketing
By: Mr. Nandu Nandkishore, President & CEO, Nestle Philippines

Business Insights and Lessons in Efficient Distribution
By: Varun Berry, Country Manager, PepsiCo, Inc. (Beverages & Foods)

Financing Options for Your Businesses
By: Sanjiv Vohra, Chief Country Officer, Citibank

Business Etiquette & Communication Protocols
By: Sangram Mohanty, Corp. Communications Director, Global Steel

LIMITED SLOTS ONLY

REGISTER NOW and avail of Early Bird & Group DISCOUNTS

CALL (+63 2) 842-7148 or 59.
EMAIL: henry@cgbp.org or
CHECK: www.cgbp.org

Seminar Investment is US$ 152 or P7,800. Inclusive of AM & PM Snacks, Lunch, Resource Kit, & Certificate of Attendance.

Solon links Defensor ...

From page A1

the picture, apparently as the actual employer of the nurses.

Pimentel said Defensor tried to ask the Filipino nurses, through phone calls to Philippine Consul General Cecil Rebong in New York, to "back off their case."

Defensor "pulled strings to put none-too-subtle pressure on our officials from the POEA in Manila and the consulate in New York apparently to make the complaining nurses back off from their case," the senator said.

He said that after the nurses filed a case against SRA with the POEA in Manila, Defensor scrambled to call up POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz and Rebong. The POEA issued a preventive suspension order against SRA on May 24, 2006.

Pimentel said Defensor called up Baldoz on June 6 and had a "long talk on the phone" with Rebong on June 7. On June 8, the senator said the POEA lifted the suspension of SRA's license.

US senator's letter

Defensor acknowledged that he called up Baldoz not to ask her to lift the suspension order against Sentosa Care LLC but to clarify the reason for the suspension of its license.

Defensor said that US Sen. Charles Schumer had written President Macapagal-Arroyo twice, the second time on June 27, and in both instances had requested that she meet with Sentosa Care officials who wanted to discuss their concerns on the dispute between a group of Filipino nurses and the company.

Defensor said he was the one who met with the Sentosa Care officials who told him about the difficulty of deploying Filipino nurse recruits because of the suspension order.

"So I asked Administrator Baldoz what was the case here and she said none. So I asked her why she suspended the recruitment agency and she said "because there is a complaint in the US,'" he told reporters.

'For good of others'

He said there should be a case filed against Sentosa before a suspension order could be issued.

"I did not do anything wrong. I have nothing against the (group of Filipino nurses mentioned by Pimentel) but I think what we did was for the good of the others," he said.

At the House of Representatives, Akbayan party-list Rep. Mario Aguja also identified Defensor as the "*padrino*" of SRA.

Aguja said Baldoz lifted the preventive suspension order because there were more than 2,000 job orders pending with Sentosa—"2,000 Filipino medical workers whose chances to be issued US immigrant visas may be jeopardized."

"To my mind, it seems that we are too busy sending out our workers abroad but fall short of responding to their grievances ... It seems that the government has turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the injustices against our fellow Filipinos abroad," he said in a privilege speech.

Aguja said the nurses complained to their supervisors and employers about the alleged abuses but these "were ignored and not satisfactorily addressed."

US justice department

The nurses also filed discrimination charges against their petitioning employers, Philipson, and Prompt Nursing Employment before the US Department of Justice.

They engaged the services of lawyers Felix Vinluan in New York and Tim Capulong in Manila to fight for their rights.

It was then that SBP sought the intervention of Schumer, according to Pimentel.

Pimentel said Schumer, on behalf of his constituents, wrote letters to Rebong, Baldoz and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Campaign contribution

The petitioning employers of the complainants were various nursing home facilities owned or managed by Sentosa Bent Philipson, which contributed $4,500 to Schumer's election campaign, according to Aguja.

Pimentel said what Schumer did was justified while what Defensor did was not.

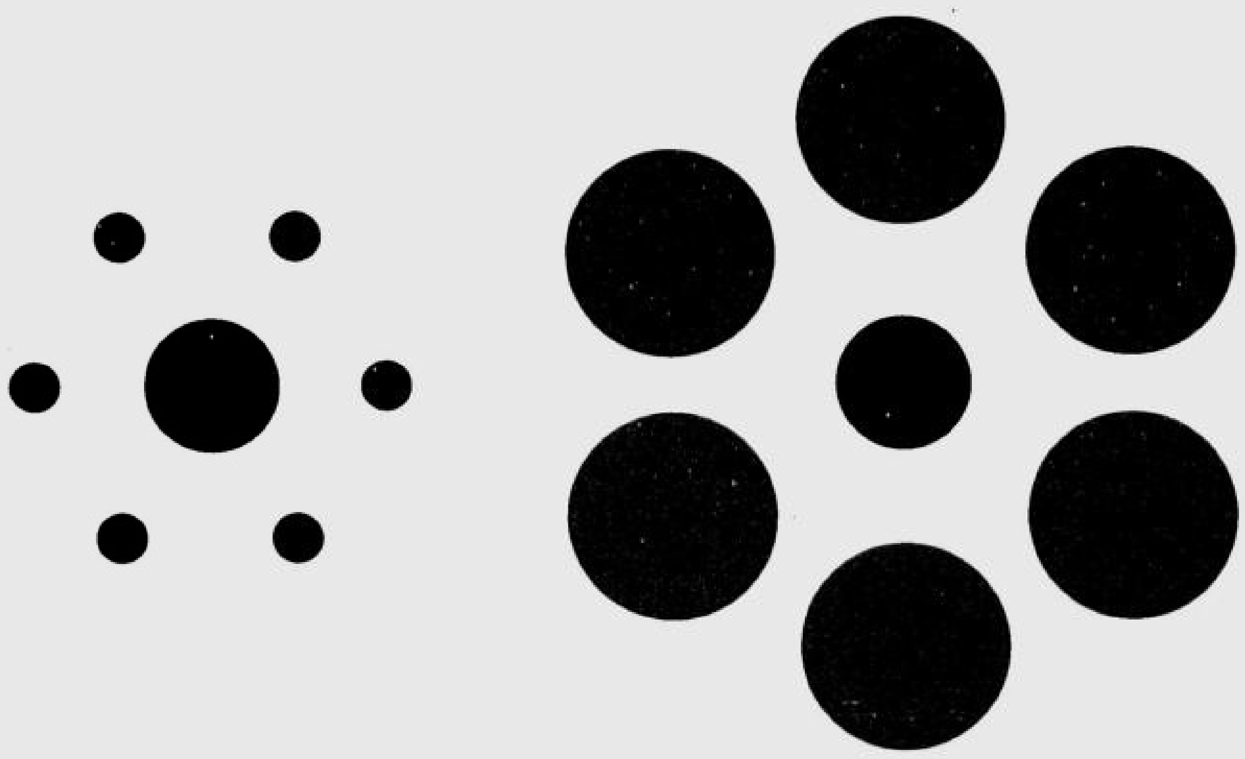
"While the US senator did his intervention in the open and with complete transparency, Secretary Defensor preferred to do his thing as it were under the cover of darkness, that is, behind the scenes," he said.

Turning the tables on the senator, Defensor asked: "Can he answer for the 270 Filipinos who are working with Sentosa who have a good relationship with Sentosa? Can he also answer for that if later on there would be bias against Filipinos because of the way we run our system here?"

Since the POEA lifted its suspension order against Sentosa, the agency has deployed more than 50 nurses to the United States, according to Defensor.

Sentosa is a single proprietorship registered in the name of Francis Luyun, who works for one of the New York nursing homes owned or managed by Bent Philipson, a Danish citizen and a permanent resident of the United States, according to Aguja.

Which middle circle is bigger?



If television appears to be a bigger medium, think again.

Believe in the power of print.
UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP
UPMG

Cha-cha proponents bring fight to high court

By Armand N. Nocum

ADVOCATES OF CHARTER CHANGE yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify the Commission on Elections decision junking their bid to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative, even as the high court had moved to include the matter in its agenda today.

"Due to the importance of this issue, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban has ordered this matter set for discussion during the court's regular en banc session (on Tuesday)," said a court official who asked not to be named because he did not have permission to make the announcement.

In a 64-page petition, Raul Lambino of Sigaw ng Bayan and Erico Aumentado of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines asked the high court to "to set aside and declare null and void respondent Comelec's resolution dated Aug. 31, 2006, which unjustly denied due course to the petition and amended petition for initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution ... for having been issued with grave abuse of discretion."

The petitioners also asked the tribunal to order the Comelec to comply with the provisions of Article 17 of the Constitution and set the date for a plebiscite on the proposed amendments to the Charter, after the two groups succeeded in securing some 10 million voter signatures of which 6.3 million had been verified.

"Undoubtedly, therefore, it is the ministerial duty of the Comelec to set the date of the plebiscite after it made a determination that the minimum requirement of signatures of registered voters had been met, as this is the clear, unequivocal and categorical directive of ... the Constitution," they said, referring to Section 2, Article 17, of the Constitution.

They said the Comelec had committed a grave abuse of discretion when it refused to take cognizance of their petition for a people's initiative based on the March 19, 1997, ruling of the Supreme Court in Santiago v. Comelec.

They pointed out that in that case, there had been no majority vote because only six justices of the Supreme Court had ruled that Republic Act No. 6735, the Initiatives and Referendum Act, was "inadequate, incomplete and insufficient insofar as an initiative on amendments to the Constitution is concerned."

On the other hand, six other justices had disagreed, saying that RA 6735, which provides that the "proposition in an initiative on the Constitution must be approved by the majority of votes cast in a plebiscite," was adequate to implement Section 2, Article 17, of the Constitution.

Two justices had inhibited themselves from the proceedings and one justice abstained from voting.

Last week, the Comelec unanimously junked Sigaw ng Bayan's and Ulap's petition to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative, saying the Supreme Court had permanently barred it from taking cognizance of such petitions until Congress enacts a law to allow the implementation of the initiative system.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 5, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 2:10-16
Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people at the sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all these people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. He orders, and you see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

The Spirit teaches us the depths of God! The only way we learn the mind of Jesus is through the power of the Spirit, found in the Word, the Scriptures. Jesus' words are filled with authority that comes from within him, not given to him from outside by others. There are those who know that Jesus is the Holy One of God, but they see only destruction in Jesus' presence. Do we know Jesus as the vibrant, commanding power of God to transform destruction into life? Do we live by Jesus' authority and Word?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Barge carrying 'dirty' oil from Palau seized

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS SEIZED A barge docked in Surigao City suspected of carrying about two million liters of hazardous used oil from Palau.

The Cheryl Ann barge arrived in the country on Monday last week and was apprehended on Friday, said Director Nestorio Gualberto of the bureau's Enforcement and Security Service.

The customs agents also apprehended the barge's captain, a Filipino identified as Jose Pineda, and 15 of his crew members. The shipment was consigned to Powerzone Philippines.

Gualberto said the BOC intercepted the barge based on intelligence reports that included a confidential message saying the barge was carrying "hazardous used oil."

He said that based on the visual inspection by customs agents, the barge appeared to contain a liquid substance suspected of being used oil.

Leila B. Salaverria

BASTA TUBO MOLDEX MO!
i-MOLDEX
sales@moldex.com.ph
373-1000 • 0918-8028888

SAILSALE
Manila to Visayas
or
Visayas to Manila
₱799
Bacolod
Cebu
Coron
Dumaguete
Iloilo
Puerto Princesa
Tagbilaran
Sale period: Sept 1-7
Sail period: Sept. 21 - Oct. 21
Call (02) 528-7000 or text 0917-8892424
for inquiries or visit your nearest
SuperFerry outlet
SuperFerry
Tripid 'to!
www.SuperFerry.com.ph

SAILSALE
Manila to Mindanao
or
Mindanao to Manila
₱1499
Cagayan
Cotabato
Davao
Dipolog
General Santos
Iligan
Nasipit
Ozamis
Surigao
Zamboanga
Sale period: Sept 1-7
Sail period: Sept. 21 - Oct. 21
Call (02) 528-7000 or text 0917-8892424
for inquiries or visit your nearest
SuperFerry outlet
SuperFerry
Tripid 'to!
www.SuperFerry.com.ph

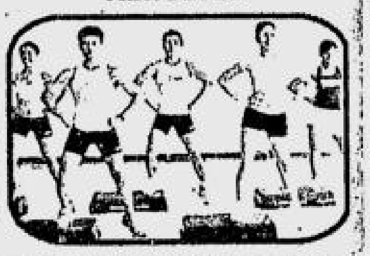
LOSE 16 INCHES
IN 60 MINUTES
AND ALL YOUR CELLULITES WITH
BODY METRICS!!!

INCH
1
2
3
4
5
GREAT BODIES WINNER CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs.
GREAT BODIES WINNER KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST!
NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!
FOR CALLERS TODAY.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787 Series of 2006

PERSONAL TRAINING
FREE TRIAL!

ALL THE LATEST
AEROBICS!



CALL US:
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS
(75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

SLIMMERS WORLD
BUY 1 MONTH
GET 1 MONTH
FREE!!! FOR CALLERS TODAY.
on Fitness & Aerobics Programmes.
NO JOINING FEES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787. Series of 2006.

SAVE TODAY.
BUY 15 TREATMENT GET 5 FREE!!!

HOT MASQUE
For firming and inch loss.
MESO REJUVENATION
Skin renewed, reborn & refreshed?
BODY FORMER
Lose 1,000 calories while you relax.
PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL
At the lowest price in the Philippines.

Diamond Ultrapeel is Skin Resurfacing
Resurfacing is a wonderful alternative to laser or chemical peels because it is non-invasive, non-surgical & requires no down time after treatment.
- Sun damaged skin
- Age spots
- Reduction of early aging fine lines
- Blending of cosmetic surgery or laser treatments
- Reduction of acne scarring
- Extraction of blackheads and whiteheads
- Minor scar revision
- Hyperpigmentation reduction

Introducing ENDOSLIM
An effective way of shaping your body and reducing the appearance of cellulite. The gentle suction combined with the action of the motorized rollers lift and roll the skin, thereby stimulating the venous and lymphatic systems. As a result, toxins and abnormal fluid retention is eliminated from the body.

The latest technology in slimming & firming from Europe... MESOTHERAPY

ALABANG BINONDO CALOOCAN CEBU GREENHILLS LEGASPI VILL. MALATE MEGAMALL PASAY ROAD PASIG SM NORTH SUBIC TRAFALGAR
SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09178261204 MALATE 5259891/09213173415
MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314

Plastic bag or 'bayong'? Celebrities pick the latter

LOCATION #1
U/12 La Fuerza Plaza,
2241 Pasong Tamo St.
(Between EDSA and Pasay Road) Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 894-37-97 / 812-16-78

TINT SPECIALIST AIRCON TINT ROOM
7 Flags
A Notch Above The Rest

LOCATION #2
Y, Square Bldg.,
7280 Malugay St., cor Mayapis,
San Antonio Village, Makati City
NOW OPEN

TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS OH JAPAN TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS

AIRCON TINT ROOM

1,990.00
Maximum Solar Protection + + +
Choose from over 30 tints on our State-of-the-Art Tint Tester
Clear & Specialty Safety Films

for Sedans
+ 400 for Revo / Pajero / Starex ...
+ 700 for Expedition / Suburban ...
WITH 3 YEARS WARRANTY
All Major Brands Available at 20% Off
Official Tinters of Major European and Imported Cars
No Extra Charge for Aircon Tint Room

WE INSTALL TINTS FOR AUTO, BUILDINGS, BANKS, HOMES, MALLS, OFFICES, RESTAURANTS...
Hot Line Tel. Nos.: 894-37-97 / 812-16-78

H.I.D.
P 11,900.00 up
XENON LIGHTING
*HELLA BALLAST SYSTEM
ISO 9001
Made for all Vehicle Types
3 Models to choose from
12 to 24 Months Warranty
FREE HELLA LASER Alignment

ALARM
P 3,990.00
Advanced Vehicle Remote Engine Starter & Security System
- Remote engine start
- Remote door lock/unlock
- Silent arm/disarm
- Automatic rearming
- Remote trunk release
- *Super bright BLUE LED indicator
- *High sensitivity two-stage shock sensor

ALARMS, BULBS, H.I.D. HORNS, WIPERS & MORE

From page A1

The early morning shopping at Hi-Top Supermarket on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City was part of a campaign by the Ecowaste Coalition to encourage consumers to drop the plastic bag habit and turn to reusable containers for their groceries.

"The plastic invasion of the Filipino culture and society must end. The health and environmental costs of its production and use are too high," Gigie Cruz of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Gaia) said.

A survey done by the Ecowaste Coalition on Aug. 14 found that plastics accounted for 76 percent of the detritus floating on Manila Bay. Plastics take a thousand years to disintegrate and gradually release toxins into water and soil.

Cruz said the garbage collectors from Ecowaste, including Greenpeace, gathered 207 kilos of waste, which consisted of plastic bags (51 percent), composites such as sachets and junk food packages (19 percent), biodegradables (13 percent), rubber (10 percent), Styrofoam (5 percent) and hard plastics like bottle caps (1 percent).

Plastics, which often find their way into bodies of water, release debris when they start disintegrating. The debris are often swallowed by fish and other plankton-feeding creatures which mistake the debris for food, according to Cruz.

Most harmful

Cruz said the most harmful plastic—from production to use—is polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is used in making water, salad dressing, detergent, cooking oil and shampoo bottles, plastic tubing, industrial packaging, plant nursery bags and black plastic sheets.

The plasticizer used to produce the PVC bottles and bags is dangerous to health because it emits dioxins, which have been found to cause cancer.

The Ecowaste Coalition has started talks with the Philippine Retailers Association to raise awareness on the effects of plastic on health and the environment.

Better lifestyle

Cruz said Shopwise seemed "receptive" to the idea of giving discounts or incentives to shoppers who brought their own reusable bags when buying groceries.

"It's a better lifestyle. (It will) let the earth breathe and rehabilitate itself," Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said.

Other celebrities who caught the shoppers' attention were Miss Earth-Philippines Cathy Untalan, TV anchor Christine Bersola-Babao and actor Roy Alvarez.

"Reducing the use of plastic bags will help ease our mounting waste problems not only on land but also on rivers and seas," Untalan said.

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP

July
inflation
rate – lowest
in two years
6.4% in July 2006 from
7.1% a year ago

Peso at four year high
July 2002: P50.66 = $1 -- September
2006: P50.735 = $1

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 5.5% in the
second quarter of 2006

OFW remittances increased 14% year-on-year in the first half
of 2006

High
Low
Close
3rd Ind
10984.61

"The peso can climb to the level of 50 to the US dollar as early as next month and rally further to 49 to the dollar in March, given the country's improving economic fundamentals...The prospect for the peso is brightening with upgrades in outlook for budget, exports and overseas worker remittances....The upturn can extend next year to test 49.50 to the dollar in March and 49.00 in June, fueled by prospects of potential sovereign credit-rating upgrades for the Philippines. "

Development Bank of Singapore
Asia Currency Rearch Group
August 10, 2006

LET'S MOVE FORWARD

Magtulungan Tayo. Kaunlaran Muna.

6 Marines killed; 20 hurt in Sulu clash

From page A1

"Our troops were able to observe enemy positions but unfortunately they were surprised that there were many (bandits) around. There were about 200 members of the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) at that time," he said.

With the latest clash, the number of government troops killed rose to nine since the military stepped up its manhunt in the island province on Aug. 1. Another 56 soldiers were wounded.

Rebel casualties

Based on body count, the military said at least 10 Abu Sayyaf bandits had been killed, seven wounded and eight captured during the same period. But officials in Zamboanga put the insurgent fatalities at 25.

"We are very sure that the ASG suffered casualties because per report from the Marines, they were the ones who were able to close in last night and early this morning. But as much as we are still pursuing them, we are not counting or finding out how many enemies were wounded or killed," Luga said.

Luga said the Marines and the newly deployed Scout Rangers were pursuing "the elements of the high-value targets" who fled toward Mount Sinumaan.

"The enemy is on the run so there is no exact position as to where they are right now," Caculitan said.

Officials admitted that soldiers had not seen Janjalani or the two Indonesians at the encounter site.

"We have enough reasons and all indicators point that they are still there. The evidence is the concentration of Abu Sayyaf elements in the area (and that) there was a fierce fight," Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado, military spokesperson, said.

Reinforcements dispatched

In Zamboanga City, Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, Western Mindanao Command chief, said reinforcements had been ordered to Patikul "to neutralize the situation and the group so we can ease tension in the area."

Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, chief of the 3rd Marine Brigade, said the government troops were outnumbered.

"We only had 27 soldiers from our recon unit that staged the attack compared to almost 200 fully armed terrorists," Sabban said in a phone interview.

He said the soldiers attacked the camp believing that only a handful of bandits were there having breakfast. "To surprise them, one of my men threw a hand grenade and started the gunfight," he said.

"It was a fierce close battle, our troops were so close to the enemy," Sabban said.

He said at least 25 bandits were killed in the clash. Their identities were not known.

"It was the heaviest casualties we had," Sabban said, since government soldiers launched a full assault on the Abu Sayyaf on Aug. 1. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Send resumés instantly

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

Palace names new SEC commissioner

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALACAÑANG HAS NAMED FORMER ORIental Mindoro Vice Gov. Thaddeus Venturanza as the new commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, completing the five-member commission en banc, the country's corporate watchdog.

SEC chair Fe Barin told the INQUIRER that she recently received a letter from Malacañang, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and dated Aug. 28, appointing Venturanza as the SEC's new associate commissioner.

Venturanza, of law firm Venturanza and Quizon-Venturanza, replaces former SEC commissioner Joselia Poblador who resigned ahead of the end of her term last January 2006. Poblador's term was supposed to end in 2007.

Venturanza declined to comment on his appointment but confirmed he had received a nomination to join the SEC as its commissioner.

The President was reportedly planning to appoint a seasoned broadcaster to head the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

Sources from Malacañang and state broadcast stations said Ms Arroyo had tapped Government Mass Media Group head Cerge Remonde to replace NAPC chief Datu Zamzamin L. Ampatuan.

The NAPC covers 13 national government agencies, presidents of four local government leagues, as well as 14 sectoral representatives leading to speculations that Remonde's appointment was tied with the government's plan to push for Charter change in the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alex Aguilar said labor groups were "disheartened" by last week's resignation of National Labor Relations Commission chair Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio, who was in office for only a little over a year.

Aguilar described Bitonio as "a very qualified public servant [who] was never involved in any controversy."

Raul Aquino, presiding commissioner of the NLRC second division, took over as acting chair, following the rules set by the labor code.

With Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

Mastery in Surgery '06 course opens today

THE FOUNDATION for the Advancement of Surgical Education, Inc. (Fase) in cooperation with the Department of Surgery of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) will hold its 42nd annual postgraduate course entitled "Mastery in Surgery 2006: Emergencies in Surgical Care" starting today, Sept. 5, until Sept. 8, 2006 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Malate, Manila. A precongress workshop on flexible sigmoidoscopy, choledoschoscopy and gastroscopy will also be conducted today at the Philippine General Hospital.

The objective of this year's postgraduate course is to be able to discuss the appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic management of emergencies in the practice of surgery. The course will feature lectures, video presentations, panel and interactive case discussions in presenting the surgical emergencies utilizing the wealth of clinical material and experience which the UP-PGH Department of Surgery is well-known for.

₱8.1B needed for 2 elections in '07

By Michael Lim Ubac

WANTED: BIG MONEY TO HOLD THE 2007 elections.

Malacañang yesterday asked Congress to allocate P8.1 billion for two separate elections next year.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. told the House appropriations committee at the preliminary briefing on the proposed P1.136-trillion national budget for 2007 that the legislature was mandated to fund the two political exercises.

In the proposed General Appropriations Act, the budget chief is seeking P5.5 billion for the holding of the 2007 mid-term national and local elections and P2.3 billion for the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections also slated next year.

In addition, overseas voting will cost the poll body P238 million while a general list-up of voters for the SK elections will add P139 million to total poll expenses.

Projected expenses for the two national elections have increased the Commission on Elections (Comelec) overall budget to P9.8 billion for 2007, which is triple this year's budget of P3.3 billion, according to Andaya. The projected 9.8 billion budget includes P137 million for election modernization.

"As a result, Comelec was catapulted to 9th place in the top 10 agencies receiving budgetary allocations next year," he said, pointing out, however, that the Department of Education still cornered the biggest allocation.

He denied that the proposed national budget contained funding for a plebiscite on Charter change and parliamentary elections.

He said his department was "oblivious to political developments in earmarking funds for the national elections."

GENERICS
WHOLESALE PRICES AS OF AUG 18, 2006
www.CNN-generics.com

Amoxicillin Cap 500 mg -100's	134.00
Ascorbic Acid Tab 500 mg -100's	55.00
Carbocisteine Cap 500 mg -100's	89.00
Cephalexin Cap 500 mg -100's	224.00
Ciprofloxacin Tab 500 mg -100's	245.00
Co-trimox Tab 400/80 mg -100's	62.00
Health Mat (Portable 74"x26")	55,000.00
Multi-Vitamin Cap -100's	86.00
Multivitamin Syrup 60 ml	14.20
Paracetamol Tab 500 mg -100's	28.00
Salbutamol Tab 2 mg -100's	19.00
Silymarine Cap 125mg (France) -50's	580.00
Vitamin B-Complex Tab -100's	58.00

Cash. No minimum Order.
Money Back Guarantee.
more than 400 products
CNN GENERICS DISTRIBUTION, INC. TEL 410-1337, 410 0815 410-1451, 741-7763
2nd flr. 459 Quezon Ave. Q.C. FAX 410-5216

TheraBreath Kit System

A sure cure to Bad Breath. Therabreath™ removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.

GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™

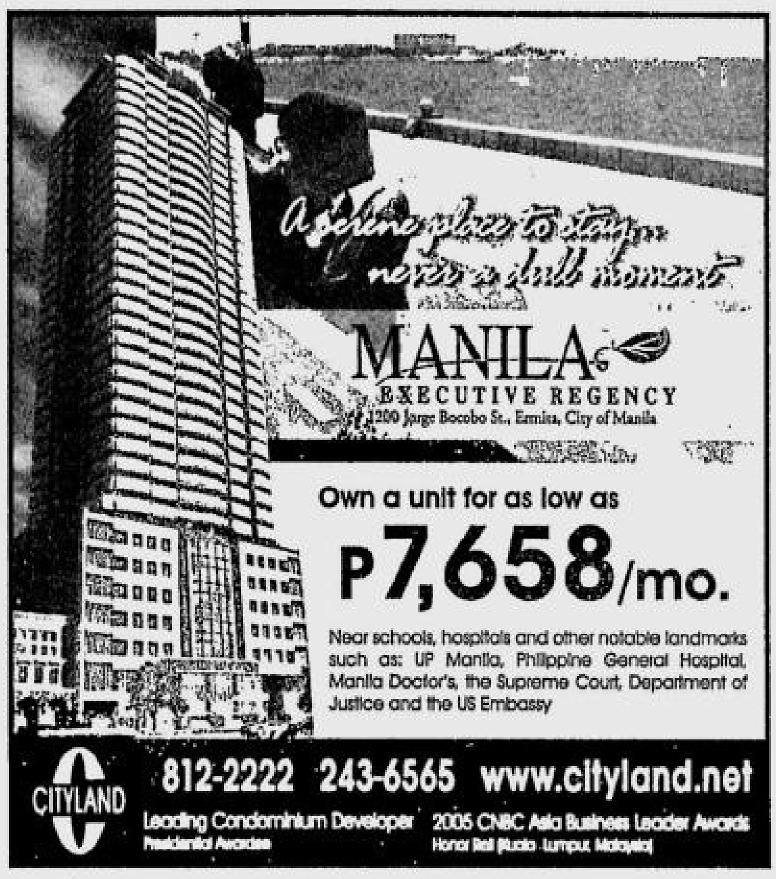
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition.

Money Back Guarantee
Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment

Call free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2466 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717

idec®
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000, 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Free Installation!
Call:243-2610,241-4731,(0919)2482183
Available at: MC Home Depot / Fort & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821

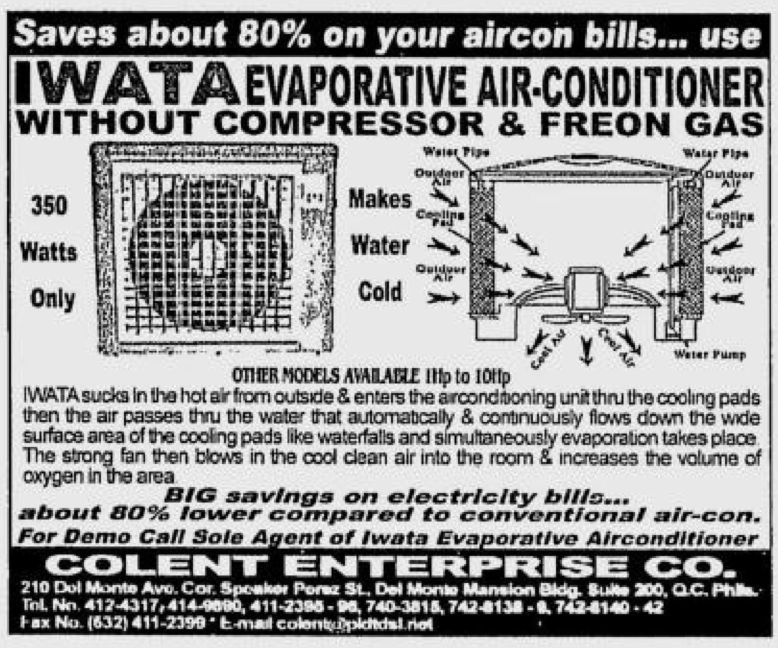
Widest Selection of Industrial Cleaning Equipment
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
INDUSTRIAL SWEEPERS
Sweeper Star 2000H
Lion 8000 ME
Lion 9000 M
P3,500
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
INDUSTRIAL SCRUBBERS
BT 9500
BT 450
Lavamatic E 350 N II
HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
TRX
Optima
WH 3517E
WH 2119
INDUSTRIAL VACUUM CLEANERS
Nevada
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Q.C. : 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709



A serene place to stay... never a dull moment.
MANILA EXECUTIVE REGENCY
1200 Jorge Bocobo St., Ermita, City of Manila
Own a unit for as low as
P7,658/mo.
Near schools, hospitals and other notable landmarks such as: UP Manila, Philippine General Hospital, Manila Doctor's, the Supreme Court, Department of Justice and the US Embassy
CITYLAND 812-2222 243-6565 www.cityland.net
Leading Condominium Developer Presidential Awardee
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

SPEAK & WRITE
JAPANESE MANDARIN
Other specialized language courses:
English, French, Korean,
German, Spanish, Italian, Filipino
(Tagalog and Visayan dialects)
GET the best possible language learning experience!
CHOOSE a course package that suits your BUDGET!
ENJOY our facilities: Library, Mini Theater, Computers and WI-FI Zone
- We provide courses at all levels from Beginner to Advanced
- We offer a wide range of courses, flexible scheduling and tailored course plans

ENROLL NOW! Also available: COMPUTER COURSES
Luke & Wendy International Language and Computer School
2nd Floor CSJ Bldg., 105 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village Makati City
CALL 818-5902-03/05



Saves about 80% on your aircon bills... use
IWATA EVAPORATIVE AIR-CONDITIONER
WITHOUT COMPRESSOR & FREON GAS
350 Watts Only
Makes Water Cold

OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE 1Hp to 10Hp
IWATA sucks in the hot air from outside & enters the airconditioning unit thru the cooling pads then the air passes thru the water that automatically & continuously flows down the wide surface area of the cooling pads like waterfalls and simultaneously evaporation takes place. The strong fan then blows in the cool clean air into the room & increases the volume of oxygen in the area.
BIG savings on electricity bills...
about 80% lower compared to conventional air-con.
For Demo Call Sole Agent of Iwata Evaporative Airconditioner
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
210 Del Monte Ave. Cor. Speaker Perez St., Del Monte Mansion Bldg. Suite 200, Q.C. Phils.
Tel. No. 412-4317, 414-9890, 411-2395 - 96, 740-3815, 742-8138 - 9, 742-8140 - 42
Fax No. (632) 411-2399 * E-mail colent@pldtdsl.net

SUPER SULIT OFFER
AURORA CALCULATOR
Buy NOW!!! SC-582
Scientific Calculator w/ 240 Functions
GET FREE
PHP 488.00
1 BOX of VERBATIM
1.44MB (41759) diskette
Distributed by:
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
www.astech-pengson.com
MANILA (02) 634-8351 to 59
CEBU (032) 344-1185
DAVAO (082) 221-0585

THE LOWEST PRICED WATER HEATER IS BACK!
Joana
P4,499.75
All IN! With FREE INSTALLATION
with Over-Heat Beeper Alarm System
"simply durable"
- The only water heater with an automatic beeper alarm at 55°C.
- Has 3 power settings.
- An auto steam-off device.
- Flexible Hand Shower included.
- Adaptable to existing shower with bypass fittings.
- Operates with low water pressure.

MCCP METAL A Division of Chrome Dazzler Corp.
412.1471 · 414.2964 · 723.2968 ·
Trunkline: 721.2961 & 721.64.30 loc 21 & 22

Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA
The best of both worlds

Information Sessions in 2006:

Manila
September 13 (Wednesday)
Makati Shangri-La Manila Hotel

Singapore
September 11 (Monday)
The Fullerton Singapore

Bangkok
September 12 (Tuesday)
Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok

Taipei
September 14 (Thursday)
Far Eastern Plaza Hotel

Hong Kong
September 19 (Tuesday)
Pacific Place Conference Center

Shenzhen
September 20 (Wednesday)
Crowne Plaza Shenzhen

As a partnership between two leading universities, the Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA program provides the best executive education that Asia and the US can offer.

Recently ranked No.2 in the world by the Financial Times.

To find out more about this premium program, visit: www.bm.ust.hk/emba or attend one of the information sessions.

Tel: (852) 2358 4180 Email: emba@ust.hk

Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA
Kellogg
HKUST BUSINESS SCHOOL

GMA sets meeting with terror expert

From page A1

for the meeting between Ms Arroyo and the "mystery man," but Malacañang said it would be held most likely after the President returned on Sept. 20 from her European and American trip. She leaves for Finland on Thursday.

"There is a request for that person to meet with the President to give an update. But only with the President," Defensor said.

"The President cannot do it soon because she is really busy now preparing for her long trip."

Defensor said the request for the meeting was made by a "trusted ally of the President from Davao."

He did not say if he was referring to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Ms Arroyo's consultant on antiterrorism. Duterte has indicated he knew about the controversial test but denied he had authorized it.

The test was carried out on Aug. 14 on a flight from Manila to Davao and back.

'Highest authority'

In an interview with a Davao newspaper, Duterte was quoted as saying that a full explanation of the security drill could be divulged only after clearance had been obtained from "the highest authority."

Defensor said Ms Arroyo was not aware of the test because airport security measures were not discussed at her level.

In jest, Defensor said that when the security expert—whose name has not been publicly disclosed—does go to Malacañang to meet with Ms Arroyo, the Presidential Security Group would search him from head to toe.

"But seriously, this person did not mean to blow up anything because he just wanted to check the security of the airport and there is nothing to get worried about," he said.

Unanswered question

Asked if Duterte was referring to Ms Arroyo when he spoke of the "highest authority," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "We are leaving all these questions to the security establishment. As far as I know, Malacañang had no hand in the security breach."

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi said it would be difficult to have "closure" on the security breach at the Manila Domestic Airport that prompted officials to enhance security measures.

"It's difficult because we have to check all the records and Mayor Duterte has been pointing out some inconsistencies in the report," Cusi said in a phone interview.

A chance to learn

Cusi and other ranking security officials held a closed-door meeting yesterday to discuss the results of their investigation.

Asked about the meeting, Cusi said: "We're still trying to establish if it happened."

Authorities have maintained that the security test was unauthorized and violated international aviation safety rules.

Cusi said that regardless of the expert's motive for conducting the test, the airport authority "is trying to learn" from the incident.

"It has become an opportunity for us to reassess and improve our security system," he said.

Tighter security

Yesterday, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) began to implement tighter security measures at the domestic terminal. This includes placing cell phone and laptop chargers in check-in bags.

Operators of X-ray monitors are now positioned behind plywood dividers, literally "isolating" them so that they would not be distracted by passengers.

There was also heightened police visibility and bomb sniffing dogs were deployed at the domestic terminal.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigation were prepared to conduct a probe of the security breach if asked to by the President.

"I am in favor of us looking into this because even if there is no criminal liability on the issue at hand, this has certainly affected the national interest," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER. "For example, foreign tourists might be scared to come because they think our airports are not secure."

Hammer and thong

"If the President orders us, we will go after them hammer and tongs," Gonzalez said.

According to him, the issue was "complicated" and it was worth knowing who had authorized the expert to bring bomb materials onto the plane.

"If it was authorized by a person in authority, how could we charge him? Supposing this was authorized by (the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency), how could we charge the person?" Gonzalez said.

Journalist to be summoned

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, Philippine National Police deputy chief, said summoning Arlyn dela Cruz, who wrote the story for the INQUIRER, would be part of the PNP probe of the incident.

"We would also like to get the story from the source because she seems to be very knowledgeable about what he did," Razon told reporters.

He said that PNP Director General Oscar Calderon had instructed him "to verify the veracity of the report and the identity of the alleged terrorism expert."

The expert gave his story to Dela Cruz on condition that his name would not be published because of the nature of his work.

"If it was actual C4 (that was used), then it was a clear violation of security procedures and SOPs, especially operational tests, where you should only be using dummies," Razon said, referring to the type of explosive the security expert said he used for his test.

More important

Razon also said "what is more important is for the PNP to heighten the security procedures in airports, seaports, malls, buses and places where our people tend to congregate, to secure them and be prepared."

Calderon said the PNP was assessing "the accountability of persons who should handle the information and the critical intelligence information that is leaked to the public."

"I keep saying that media should be responsible in reporting. I hope that when we give information we should also consider the total welfare of the commuters and the damage it will create in the tourism industry," he said.

'An eye-opener'

Calderon admitted that the test was an "eye-opener" to gaps in airport security.

"Of course, I felt bad about the incident. But it's also good. We welcome the findings. It is an eye-opener. We have to take the bad result in a positive light. We have to talk to our security officers so we can go back to basics. We need to review the procedures that we need to double-check. But the damage is greater than the benefits you can derive," he told reporters. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Armand N. Nocum*

'They should pin a medal on him'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

"INSTEAD OF CHARGING THE man, they should pin a medal on him."

This was the reaction of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, principal sponsor of the antiterror bill in the Senate, to statements by security officials that the terror expert who sneaked bomb components aboard a domestic airliner during a test run could be held criminally liable.

Enrile said aviation officials and the public should credit the man for exposing "some degree of laxity" in security procedures so they could be corrected for the safety of the riding public.

"How can you send him to jail when he was helping us to find out if we can be penetrated by terrorists?" Enrile said, adding that the security people who failed to detect the explosive materials the expert had carried onto the plane "should be kicked out of the service."

Expert defended

Enrile defended the act of the terror expert of not informing security officials beforehand of his plan.

"How can you detect anything if you have prior coordination? That's stupidity," Enrile said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, maintained the expert violated the law against the possession and transport of explosives.

"Definitely you do not transport these explosives on board a civilian airline. You are putting into jeopardy the lives of people," Biazon said.

Malacañang must explain

"I do not question the need for a test, I am questioning the manner with which it was done," he said.

He said there was still a need for an explanation from Malacañang.

"All of this is under the jurisdiction of the executive department. If we could not identify the boss, then the boss could be the President," Biazon said.

Business urges focus on English, Science, Math

From page A1

collar workers, not white-collar skills. Even if the skills are there, he says, they still have to be honed in company-designed training programs.

Gokongwei says his senior staff insists there was a bigger pool of skilled workers to choose from before the education system fell apart during Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime when security became the top priority in budgetary allocations.

"It's sad that there are many college graduates now who can't even speak a straight sentence in English, much less write one. If we do nothing, our neighbors will surpass us in English—a language we have been speaking since the Americans colonized the Philippines more than a century ago," Tan says.

"We need to focus on English because we have to preserve whatever competitive edge we still have over our neighbors."

Language of business

Ty says new graduates fail to realize that being proficient in English is necessary for social and professional mobility, calling it "a stepping-stone for higher learning and self-improvement."

Whether it's an office or factory job, graduates need to brush up on their English because "it is the language of the business world," Gokongwei says.

Tan says the country must produce more world-class mathematicians and scientists.

"We live in an age governed by technology. Hence, no country could ever dream of competing in the world market if it lacks people with enough technical training. Thus, 10 to 15 years down the road, I believe that even my own companies will need more personnel with science and engineering backgrounds," he says.

Gokongwei concurs: "Business is all about numbers and analysis which makes knowledge in math a necessity."

More spending urged

The three businessmen agree that the government must focus its resources in improving the quality of teachers and tailoring curriculum to the needs of the times.

"You'll be surprised with Commission on Higher Education data showing the number of nonpassers in board exams for various disciplines. We support CHEd in its efforts to close down schools—or at least programs in certain institutions—whose students do not pass the board," Tan says.

TY: The needs of industries and college preparation continue to drift away.

GOKONGWEI: Graduates must brush up on English, the language of the business world.

TAN: Many college graduates can't even speak a straight sentence in English.

"To improve education, the government must spend more on schools, on teachers and equipment. But we all know that the government does not have enough money or education is only a second priority and this is where the private sector must step in," says Gokongwei.

The government estimates that at least P17 billion a year in financial assistance is needed to boost college education, teacher training and modernization of facilities. Despite its massive P119-billion budget, the Department of Education says that it still needs at least P10 billion annually to bring its operations up to global standards.

Private initiatives

Interestingly, only 10 percent of tertiary education is public, which puts the pressure on the private sector to improve the quality of the country's graduates.

Frustrated by the sub-par output of private schools, several businessmen have taken the initiative in raising the quality of education by investing in schools. Tan is putting money in the University of the East, Ty in Manila Doctors College and Gokongwei in the Ateneo Business School.

Through his Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., Tan pours in millions of pesos every year for workshops and scholarships to improve teaching skills and for the construction of schools and libraries.

The Metrobank Foundation conducts the annual Search for Outstanding Teachers, a 21-year-old flagship program. It is also a government partner in the Math Challenge for elementary and high school students.

The foundation has also set up the Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators, which provides skills upgrading programs for teachers in both private and public schools.

Finishing school

The JG Summit group has the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation to provide practical training to graduates—a sort of finishing school for engineers. "We saw that a lot of our engineering schools were heavy on theory and very light on the practical experience because they don't have laboratories," says Gokongwei.

Tan says schools should not simply focus on courses for "hot" jobs, but must also develop professionals in other disciplines if the country is to move forward.

"There is still a felt need to produce cutting-edge and highly skilled professionals for without this superior human capital formation, we will continue to end up being providers of manpower for other highly developed countries, instead of providing them a nurturing environment here to entice them to stay," Ty says.

Tech-voc schools way to go in globalization

From page A1

reer path with the newly introduced "ladderized education program" very much in her mind—a stairway to the dream of every tech-voc student who, like her, eventually hopes to earn a regular college degree.

The program officially went into effect this year under the supervision of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

It allows dropouts, out-of-school youths, and poor high school graduates who cannot afford an immediate university education to attend a vocational school first, learn a skill, get employed, and save money for a shot at a regular degree when it becomes affordable. The vocational course will then be credited in a university or college program.

On the other side of the coin, universities and colleges can incorporate practical skills in courses so that if a student there drops out, he does not have to go back to square one. Instead, he can land a job while he defers his studies for the time being.

Facility to enter, exit

"In simplest terms, ladderized education allows you facility to enter and exit our educational system while acquiring the skills and competencies you need to ascend and reach successively higher job platforms," says Tesda Director General Augusto Syjuco.

For Fernandez, the program is a gift. It will save her "time, money and effort," and get her to her next destination—a university abroad where she can earn the degree she dreams of.

She says tech-voc graduates need not start from scratch at any stage while they pursue a regular college diploma that Filipino parents yearn for their sons and daughters, and prospective employers demand from applicants.

The program was hammered out by Tesda and the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd).

An arm of the Department of Labor and Employment, Tesda is tasked with developing practical skills and manpower needed in essentially blue-collar jobs.

CHEd administers the country's universities and colleges. It is separate from the Department of Education, which is in charge of primary, elementary and high schools.

Education crisis

While there's a whale of a difference in the functions of the labor department, Tesda and CHEd, the three agencies impact on each other as the nation grapples with the worst education crisis since World War II.

The mess centers not only on the lack of infrastructure in education but also on dismal performance of Filipino students in international achievement tests in mathematics and science—problems outlined in a series of INQUIRER articles in June.

No thanks to the "language Taliban" of President Corazon Aquino's administration that imposed Filipino as the medium of instruction in schools, students have consistently scored embarrassing marks in proficiency in English—the lingua franca of globalization.

Technocrats tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo had begun to address the educational system's deficiencies before she was engulfed in the "Hello Garci" scandal. The cloud of doubt over the legitimacy of her election in 2004 had left Ms Arroyo distracted, according to critics.

Business concern

The ladderized education program was designed two years ago to address a phenomenon that the business community has been deploring—hundreds of thousands of available jobs that could not be filled. Accounting for this is a shortage of qualified, skilled laborers in a country which, according to official statistics, has 2.93 million unemployed as of April.

"What we have are jobs looking for people to fill them up and people who are not qualified for the available jobs," says Patricia Sto. Tomas, president of Development Bank of the Philippines who until April was the labor secretary.

The "mismatch" has been exacerbated by unrestricted overseas deployment of Filipino workers, dealing severe setbacks to local industries and services and endangering the country's economic viability.

Joblessness is at the core of poverty in the country, says Syjuco. "When education is not job-related, then our graduates simply cannot relate to jobs and even those jobs will go away."

Growth and jobs

Statistics from the National Manpower Summit called by Sto. Tomas in March and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan project an annual economic growth rate of at least 7 percent until 2010, generating 1.4 million to 1.6 million jobs every year.

Around 60 percent of these jobs will come from the services sector and the rest from agriculture, agri-business, tourism and industry.

In the next four years, the cyberservices sector alone is projected to provide employment for 1.08 million people, mostly in the call center industry but also in the medical transcription, animation and software development subsectors.

Proposed reforms

Sto. Tomas proposes reforms in the country's educational system to address the problem. She points out that a large number of students who take up computer courses can only qualify as encoders. What's in demand, however, are skills in animation and graphics imaging.

"While I'm not infringing on a young person's right to choose a course that would make him happy and self-fulfilled, it's also important for him to consider whether he can get a job after graduation and be able to earn a living," she says.

Fernandez is upbeat she can do both. "I have the right skills. I can even demonstrate it during a job interview," she says. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Jerome Aning*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

April 3, 2006

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 13-2006

SUBJECT : Amendment to Sub-paragraph 3.3 of Revenue Regulations No. 4-2005

TO : All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned

SECTION 1. SCOPE — Pursuant to the provisions of Section 244 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (NIRC) in relation to Sec. 232 of the same Code and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 472 Series 2005, these Regulations are hereby promulgated, to amend Sub-paragraph 3.3. of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 4-2005.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Sub-paragraph 3.3 of RR No. 4-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"3.3 Financial Statements (FS)

Financial Statements shall include the balance sheet, the statement of income, statement of changes in equity, and the statement of cash flows, together with all notes to the statements.

Starting 2005, except as provided under Sec. 232 of the NIRC, only financial statements audited by external auditors accredited by the ***Bureau of Internal Revenue*** *shall be accepted."*

SECTION 3. REPEALING CLAUSE – All existing regulations, circulars, issuances or provisions thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVITY – These Regulations take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

JOSE MARIO C. BUNAG
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

July 31, 2006

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 14-2006

SUBJECT : Providing for the Revised Implementing Rules for Executive Order No. 399 (EO 399) As Amended by Executive Order No. 422 (EO 422) Directing the Bureau of Internal Revenue to Establish the "No Audit Program" (NAP) for the Purpose of Enhancing Tax Compliance and Increasing Tax Collections with Extension of the Deadline for Availment Thereof

TO : All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned

BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2005, her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 399 (EO 399), which seeks to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily declare and pay higher taxes thereby reducing administrative costs that are entailed from audit and investigations conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). On April 26, 2005, Executive Order 399 was further amended and enhanced with the issuance of EO 422.

SECTION 1. SCOPE – Pursuant to Section 6 and Section 244 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 in relation to EO 399, as amended, these regulations are hereby promulgated to prescribe the policies and guidelines for the No Audit Program (NAP).

Taxpayers who qualify under the "No Audit Program", shall be exempted from audit and/or investigation for the period for which they qualify. The NAP shall be in force for taxable years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. –

(a) **Base Year** – refers to the taxable year immediately prior to the Current Taxable Year. To determine whether a taxpayer has qualified for the NAP for Taxable Year 2004, the Base Year on which the growth rate shall be imposed shall be Taxable Year 2003.

(b) **Current Taxable Year** – refers to the taxable year for which qualification under the NAP is sought.

(c) **TaxableYear** – refers to any 12-month period starting on any date from August 1, 2003.

Illustration:

For taxpayers who are on a fiscal year basis, if his accounting period starts on August 1, 2003, then returns filed for said period are considered returns for taxable year 2004.

(d) **Taxpayer** – refers to any person whether individual or corporation earning business income.

SECTION 3. COVERAGE. — Any taxpayer registered with the BIR and who has actually filed and paid income taxes and business taxes for taxable year 2003 may participate in the NAP. If a taxpayer fails to participate and qualify for taxable year 2004, he shall no longer be allowed to participate for any year thereafter unless his business was established after year 2004. If a taxpayer who participates in the NAP for a Taxable Year shall fail to qualify for the NAP for any subsequent Taxable Year, he shall be disqualified from further participating in the NAP.

Illustration:

Taxpayer A has been registered as a taxpayer with the BIR since 1990. In order to be qualified to participate in the NAP, he must have all the qualifications required under Section 5 for taxable year 2004. If he satisfies all the requirements for qualification, he shall enjoy the benefit of exemption from audit and/or investigation for taxable year 2004.

If Taxpayer A fails to participate or does not qualify for the NAP for taxable year 2005, his benefit of exemption from audit and/or investigation for taxable year 2004 shall continue. However, he can no longer participate in the NAP for the remaining duration of the program, i.e., for taxable years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

A taxpayer who commences business operations and registers with the BIR at anytime after the effectivity of these Regulations may apply for qualification under NAP on the subsequent Taxable Year from the taxable year when he commenced business operations and registration with the BIR. Provided, however, that if he fails to participate and qualify on the taxable year subsequent to the taxable year he commenced business operations, he shall be disqualified from further participating in the program.

Illustration:

Taxpayer A started his business in 2004. He must participate and qualify for Taxable Year 2005, otherwise, he is barred from participating in the NAP.

SECTION 4. TAXPAYER'S BENEFITS. — Taxpayers who qualify under the terms and conditions prescribed herein shall be exempted from audit and/or investigation of his tax liabilities, except Overseas Communication Tax and all forms of withholding taxes, for that particular Taxable Year for which he qualifies.

SECTION 5. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION TO THE PROGRAM. - For taxpayers to qualify for the NAP he must satisfy all of the following:

a. income tax due/tax payment for the Current Taxable Year must exceed the income tax payment for the Base Year by at least ***Thirty percent (30%);***

b. ratio of income tax payment to gross sales/receipts for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

For taxpayers earning mixed income (business income and employment income), the computation of the 30% increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of income tax payment to gross sales must be based on the tax paid and income by the taxpayer **from his business only by simulating tax payment on business income using the lowest tax rate as the starting rate in computing the tax thereon.** Thus, the increase/decrease in the compensation income and its corresponding effect on the tax due for the current taxable year shall be excluded for purposes of computing the compliance with the required increase in income tax payment and the ratio of tax payment to gross sales/receipts.

Illustration:

Mr. X, single, dealer of automobile parts, reported the following items of income and taxes paid

	2003	2004
Gross compensation income	550,000.00	750,000.00
Gross sales	1,200,000.00	1,500,000.00
Taxable compensation income	530,000.00	730,000.00
Taxable business income	280,000.00	320,000.00
Income tax due/paid	224,200.00	301,000.00
Income tax due from business	59,000.00	71,000.00
VAT due/paid	20,000.00	30,000.00

For purposes of availing NAP, how much will Mr. X pay in order to qualify?

1. Compute for the increase in tax payment for the current year vs. base year

a. Income tax

Tax paid for the current year	71,000.00
Less: tax paid for the base year	59,000.00
Increase in tax payment	12,000.00
Divide: tax paid-base year	59,000.00
Percentage of increase	20%

b. VAT

VAT paid for the current year	30,000.00
Less: VAT paid for the base year	20,000.00
Increase in VAT payment	10,000.00
Divide: VAT paid-base year	20,000.00
Percentage of increase	50%

2. Compare the ratio of tax paid to gross sales for the base year vs. current year

a. Income tax

	2003	2004
Gross sales	1,200,000.00	1,500,000.00
Income tax due/paid from business	59,000.00	71,000.00
Income tax payment ratio	4.92%	4.73%

b. VAT

	2003	2004
Gross sales	1,200,000.00	1,500,000.00
VAT due/paid	20,000.00	30,000.00
Ratio of VAT/Percentage tax	1.67%	2.00%

3. Amount to be paid to qualify for NAP

a. Income tax

i. Required 30% increase in tax payment for the current year

Income tax paid – base year	59,000.00
Required increase	130%
Tax to be paid for the current year	76,700.00

ii. Required ratio for the current year, at least equal to base year

Gross sales – current year	1,500,000.00
Ratio from base year	4.92%
Tax to be paid for current year	73,800.00

b. VAT – Required 30% VAT payment

Gross sales – current year	1,500,000.00
Required tax rate	30%
VAT to be paid for the current year	45,000.00

4. Required additional payment

a. Income tax

Income tax required to be paid	76,700.00
Less: income tax paid per return	71,000.00
Additional income tax to be paid	5,700.00

b. VAT

VAT required to be paid	45,000.00
Less: VAT paid per return	30,000.00
Additional VAT to be paid	15,000.00
	=======

Taxpayers who paid or are paying the Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT) can still avail of the NAP provided that the required increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of tax payment to gross sales/receipts shall be based on the MCIT due in the base year and the MCIT due in the current year. Further, excess MCIT shall not be credited from the succeeding year's tax due, even if the normal income tax becomes higher than the MCIT. Deferred Charges-MCIT for the current year must be closed to retained earnings account.

Taxpayers enjoying the benefit of the preferential tax rates (not subject to the Normal Income Tax Rate) can still avail of the program provided that the required increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of income tax payment to gross sales/receipts as stated in letters (a) and (b) hereof are complied and shall be based on the tax due computed applying the preferential tax rate for the base year and the current year. The same rule applies, even if the taxpayer's current year is no longer entitled to the application of the preferential tax rate.

c. ratio of net VAT or business tax actually paid to gross sales/receipts for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year, provided, however, that in no case shall it be less than ***five (5%) percent for financial institutions and (4%) for other percentage taxpayers, or thirty percent (30%) for seller of goods and fifty percent (50%) for seller of services*** of the Value-Added tax rate provided by law for any given period for those subject to value added tax, or the industry benchmark as may be determined from time to time by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (Commissioner). Provided however, that starting January 1, 2006, transactions with the government shall be excluded for the purpose of computing the herein minimum VAT ratio.

VAT zero-rated transactions and VAT exempt transactions and transactions not subject to percentage tax, shall not be considered for purposes of determining compliance with the required VAT or percentage tax ratio. Provided, however, that the gross sales/receipts from the aforesaid transactions are included for purposes of qualifying with the requirements of letters (a) and (b) of this section.

Taxpayers having purely VAT zero-rated transactions or VAT exempt transactions and transactions not subject to percentage tax, shall not be required to comply with letter (c) and shall be deemed qualified for said exemption provided that the requirements of letters (a) and (b) of this section are complied with. Provided, further, that photocopies of the required documents included in the NAP Participation Form (BIR Form No. 2114 April 2006 Version) shall be presented for validation of their business tax type/s.

To qualify for the NAP, taxpayer subject to VAT in 2003 and to Gross Receipts Tax in 2004, shall comply with the criteria stated in Sec. 5 (a) and(b) hereof and the business tax actually paid in 2004 shall not be less than five percent (5%) of the gross receipts.

For purposes of determining the tax payments for the Current Taxable Year, only taxes actually paid in cash as shown in the Annual Income Tax Return, Quarterly Income Tax Return, Quarterly Value Added Tax Return, Monthly Value Added Tax Declaration and Quarterly and Monthly Percentage Tax Return shall be considered. For this purpose, creditable withholding taxes for the taxable year concerned, which are properly supported by Certificates of Creditable Tax Withheld at Source (BIR Form 2307) shall be considered as cash payments. On the other hand, TCCs/TDMs, and tax credit carried over from prior years are considered non-cash items and shall be excluded in determining the tax payments for the Current Taxable Year.

However, for purposes of determining tax payments for the Base Year on which the increase in tax payments and ratio required to qualify for the NAP shall be measured, the total amount of tax due for the Base Year shall be included regardless of the mode of payment, i.e., whether paid in cash, creditable withholding tax, TCCs/TDMs, or tax credit carried over from prior taxable years.

In the event the taxpayer was not in operation for the whole period of the Base Year, the tax payments for that period shall be annualized, and such annualized tax payments shall be used as the tax payment of the Base Year on which the growth and ratio required shall be computed.

Illustration:

Taxpayer A, who is on calendar year basis of accounting, started his business on July 1, 2003, and paid income tax amounting to P60,000.00. For purposes of computing his tax payment for the Base Year 2003, his total income tax payment shall be divided by the number of month he is in operation and then multiplied by 12 months. In this case, his annualized income tax payment for 2003, is P60,000/6 x 12 months, or P120,000.00.

Provided, further, that the growth rate and ratio provided herein shall be adjusted to reflect the effect of the increase/decrease of the tax rate resulting from legislative measures. These growth rate and ratio shall be determined by the Commissioner for every NAP participation year which shall be released through a Revenue Memorandum Circular to be issued before the deadline for filing of NAP Participation Form on a yearly basis.

In the event a taxpayer shall have been issued an assessment that has become final and executory relating to tax payments for a Base Year, the tax payment for the Base Year shall be adjusted with an additional amount corresponding to the assessment of the basic tax.

In case the taxpayer amends his tax and information returns for any Base Year, the higher of the original amount and the amended amount shall be used as the tax payment for the Base Year for purposes of this section.

SECTION 6. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM. - Taxpayers who are reporting net loss or have a Net Operating Loss Carry-over without MCIT due shall be disqualified from participating in the NAP. This includes taxpayers having net income but having no tax payable due to their deduction of personal and additional exemptions.

SECTION 7. RESERVATION OF THE POWER TO AUDIT. — The provision of Section 4 of these Regulations notwithstanding, the Commissioner shall have the right to audit a taxpayer who falls in any of the following circumstances:

a. Those to whom Letter Notices have been issued, which were not disputed and which remains outstanding on the date the taxpayer filed the application required under these Regulations;

b. Those to whom Letter Notices may be issued by the Commissioner himself in the future as a result of information obtained from third party or from information filed by the taxpayer himself where there appears a discrepancy in his tax payment;

c. Tax cases covered by a Letter of Authority arising from confidential information filed.

d. Those who shall fail to file all the required information returns or do not provide all the information/data required in the information returns filed.

SECTION 8. PROCEDURES FOR AVAILMENT. — The Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall issue the necessary revenue memorandum order/circular and/or any appropriate revenue issuances for the effective and efficient implementation of the NAP.

SECTION 9. DEADLINE. — A taxpayer must file a duly accomplished NAP Participation Form, together with the required attachments, not later than thirty (30) days from the statutory deadline for the filing of Annual Income Tax Return for the year subject of the Participation, or in the case of taxpayers whose statutory deadline for the filing of Annual Income Tax Returns occurred earlier than the date of the effectivity of these Regulations, their applications must be filed within thirty (30) days from the effectivity hereof.

However, for taxpayers whose taxable year ends on December 31, 2005 and fiscal years ending in January, February, March, or April 2006, the NAP Participation Form must be filed together with the required attachments, on or before October 1, 2006, subject to extension by the Commissioner, on meritorious grounds.

All returns and payments made by a taxpayer who applied to participate in the NAP are deemed final and conclusive, and by applying to participate in the NAP, the taxpayer shall be deemed to have waived all of his rights to claim any refund pertaining thereto.

Only taxpayers whose annual income tax returns were not amended may apply to participate in the NAP. In the event the amount of taxes paid shall not be sufficient to qualify a taxpayer for the NAP, he may still qualify by making a voluntary payment in amount not less than the deficiency required for him to qualify. Provided, that said payment shall be non-refundable nor deductible against his income. Provided, further that said voluntary payment shall form part of the base of the tax year to which it pertains, for purposes of determining his qualification for NAP in the subsequent taxable year.

Taxpayers who failed to avail and qualify for 2004 NAP availment can still avail of the Program under these Regulations by complying with the requirements herein provided; Provided, however, that neither a Final Assessment Notice nor a Letter Notice for taxable year 2004 has been issued on the date of the availment, subject to the conditions stated under Sec. 7 hereof. Additional payments, if any, must be made using BIR Form 06015-101 and NAP Participation Form must be filed not later than October 1, 2006.

SECTION 10. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT/INVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION. - The application and the required attachments shall be reviewed by the NAP Review Committee composed of the following:

A. Regional Level

Head : Assistant Regional Director

Members :

1. Revenue District Officer where taxpayer is registered, or his representative
2. Chief, Assessment Division
3. Chief, Legal Division

B. Large Taxpayers

Head : HREA (Regular/Excise)

Members :

1. Chief, LTAID I / LTAID II /, LTDO where taxpayer is registered, or his representative
2. Chief, LTCED
3. Head, Audit Review Unit

The NAP Review Committee shall recommend the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption from Audit/Investigation or Notice of Disqualification which shall be signed by the Regional Director, for regional office cases, or the Assistant Commissioner, Large Taxpayers Service, for large taxpayers' cases. The Notice of Disqualification shall always mention the reason for the disqualification

Any unpaid amount found after review by the NAP Review Committee shall be paid within thirty (30) days from receipt by the taxpayer of the written notification from the RDO or Chief of concerned Large Taxpayers Division/District Office; otherwise, the taxpayer's availment shall be invalidated.

SECTION 11. APPEAL. - Taxpayers who received a Notice of Disqualification may file an appeal to the NAP Committee- National Office Level within 30 (thirty) days from receipt thereof. The composition, functions, duties and responsibilities of the NAP Committee-National Office Level shall be provided through a Revenue Special Order to be issued by the Commissioner for that purpose.

SECTION 12. TRANSITORY PROVISION. - The increase in growth rate and in ratio herein stated shall apply to taxpayers whose application will be filed after July 31, 2006.

SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All existing revenue issuances or portions thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - These Regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

JOSE MARIO C. BUNAG
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

(PDI – Sept. 5, 2006)

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 269

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000
•100% soy ink•

Porous security

EDITORIAL

THE COVERT EXERCISE RECENTLY CONDUCTED by an antiterrorism expert acting as a "suicide bomber" has shown how porous and lax the security system is at our airports. If the "terrorist" was able to breach the security system at such major airports as those in Manila and Davao, one can only imagine how he could have breezed through the other domestic airports.

The security equipment at our airports may indeed be already obsolete in the light of recent advances in the armaments and methods of terrorists. These equipment will have to be upgraded soon if we are to make our airports as "terrorist-proof" as possible.

One current source of concern is liquid bombs that terrorists may try to smuggle into airplanes. There is now a rule that prohibits the carrying of liquids, gels, toothpaste, lipsticks and the like in hand luggage. But what about those that are carried in checked-in luggage? Liquid or paste bombs could still be set off by remote control once a plane has taken off. All kinds of luggage, whether hand-carried or checked in, will have to be thoroughly checked to ensure that no bombs are smuggled into planes.

Pinpoint image analysis can be used in conjunction with airport X-ray machines to tell the difference between explosives and organic items like shampoo and food in luggage, according to an executive of Guardian Technologies International of the United States. At present, all a security screener can tell through an X-ray machine is the density of the items going through. Pinpoint, which runs on a PC, can be hooked to an X-ray machine to provide in-depth image analysis of items as they go through.

Another technology projects sub-atomic particles into passenger luggage and enables the chemical identification of individual items in a bag. At present, the current technologies—X-ray, radar, infrared—for the detection of explosive materials are "chemically blind," Bogdan Maglich, chair and chief scientific officer of HiEnergy Technologies, said. "They can only determine shapes and densities of objects, leading to false recognition of materials that may be physically similar to explosive compounds," he said.

SuperSenzor technology uses neutron energies of between 4 and 14 million electron volts to detect the main elements that comprise most explosives: Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen.

Other new technologies are:

—The explosive trace detection equipment which uses chemical analysis to identify the potential presence of explosives. Samples are taken by rubbing the bag with a special swab, and the swab is analyzed to determine if any traces of explosives are present.

—The EGIS Trace Explosive Detection Systems which are highly sensitive devices used to detect various types of commercial and military explosives including dynamite, plastic explosives like Semtex and C4 and TNT.

—The Ionscan which can detect trace amounts of more than 40 explosives or narcotic substances in an 8-second analysis. It has been used at the Salt Lake City (Utah) airport for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

—The "puffer" machines which can detect minute quantities of explosives in the air around a person.

These state-of-the-art equipment are certainly expensive but the government will have to acquire some of them if it wants our airports to be "terrorist-proof." But the attention of security personnel should not be focused just on things. They will have to watch the behavior of certain passengers surreptitiously and take aside some who may be behaving strangely. For instance, passengers who buy tickets or check in at the last minute would have to be searched thoroughly. Some ethnic and religious profiling may have to be resorted to, at the risk of criticism for racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, but it is always better to be safe than sorry.

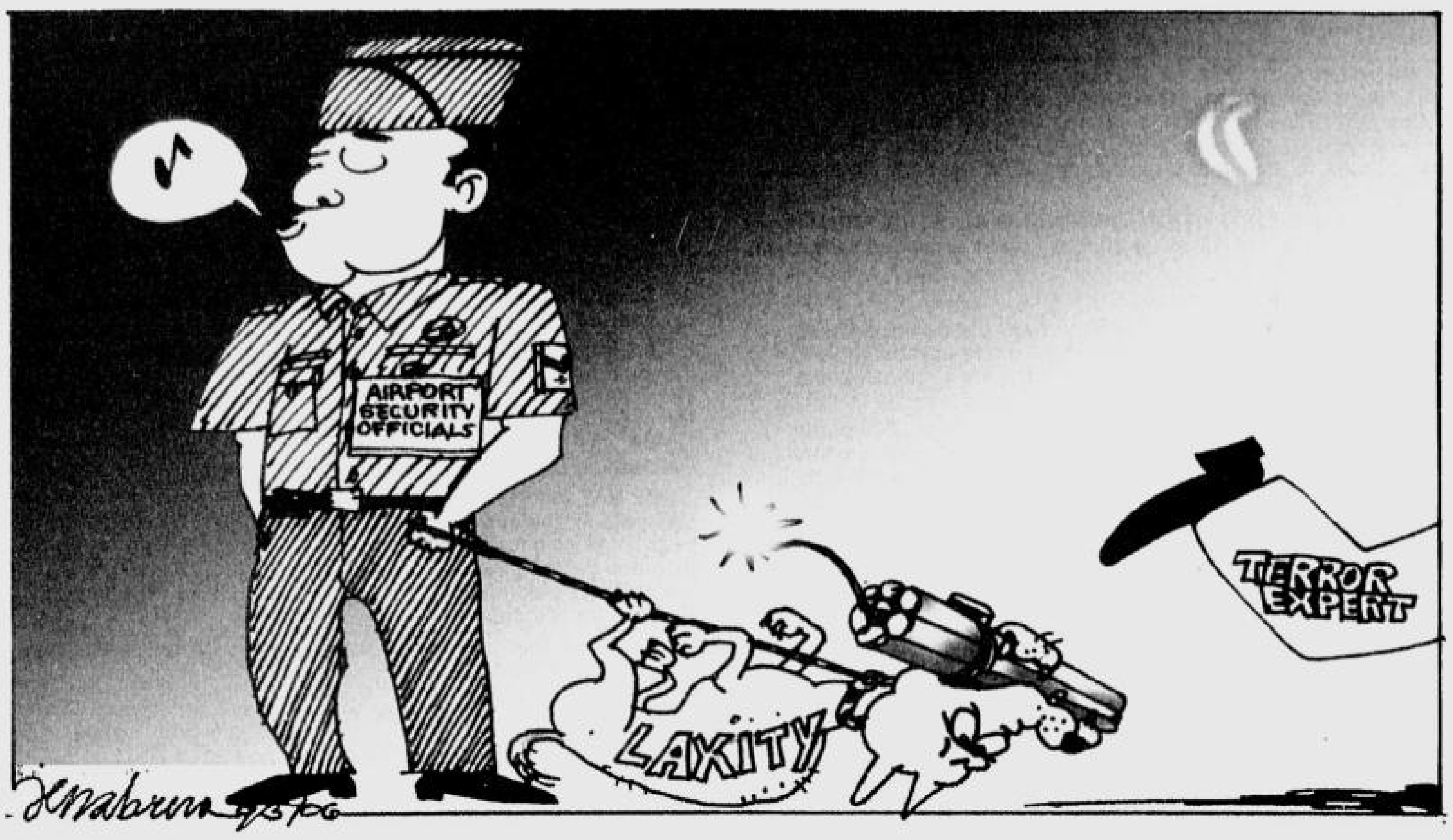
As Sept. 11 approaches, the strictest measures will have to be taken at the airports. We can never be sure that al-Qaida and other terrorist groups will not strike at the airports of the Philippines which has sided with the United States in the global war on terrorism. If there is still time, the latest security equipment should be purchased. Security personnel will have to be retrained. And there should be no exemption from security procedures—not for government officials, not for politicians, not for military or police officers. Everyone will have to cooperate in the enforcement of stringent security checks.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Executive Vice President **DAVID O. VALDES**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **SANDY SIMON R. YAP**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW TIROL**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Have-gun-will-tax collection

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"SILENCE HAS A THOUSAND TONGUES," the old saying goes. And with deafening silence is how communists try to smother Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales' scathing denunciation of their "revolutionary taxes" as "downright gangsterism."

The Akbayan Party representative flayed rebels for torching an AlterTrade truck after the Bacolod company bucked a P30-million "tax." Ex-insurgents set up AlterTrade to export muscovado (sugar) and bananas. Usually voluble rebel spokesmen buttoned up over Rosales' charges of "extortion."

In December 2003, the lady skewered "permit-to-campaign" fees. Rebels bilked these from candidates in places where they were present. This heist, Rosales asserted, "compromised political freedoms"—a point to keep in mind as the May 2007 elections approach.

Define your position on PTCs, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines asked in a pastoral statement. Reps. Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Liza Masa zippered their lips. So did the rebel fronts.

Rebels free-lance as revenue agents because government law enforcement is patchy. Ceres buses in Negros have been torched and Globe telecom stations bombed. Road construction firms in Bukidnon have been vandalized. Is this virus contagious? The Cebu Daily News reports that police arrested Bayan demonstrators for collecting "levies" from multinational firms.

"It is the part of the good shepherd to shear his flock, not to skin it," the emperor Tiberius once said to governors who sought more taxes.

Taxes and power here grow from the barrel of a gun, to bastardize one of Mao's axioms. Inflicted pain is the message. But ordinary citizens bear the brunt even as pressure on the splintered insurgency to poach even more has intensified.

One reason is that the European Union, the United States and Canada added the CPP-NPA to their roster of terrorist organizations. Such blacklisting shuts the taps of international banks.

Another reason is that China jettisoned its Mao-era policy of bankrolling local rebels. In his May 2005 state visit to Manila, President Hu Jintao reiterated Beijing's policy, as enunciated before 42 Asian-African countries meeting in Jakarta: In a "globalized world," a resource-hungry China would seek "cooperation and common development."

Orphaned Filipino Maoists sneered that China's "embrace of filthy capitalism" made it turn its back on the "people's war." But that cuts little ice in Beijing.

"When high school students in Shanghai crack their new history textbooks this fall, they'll find socialism has been reduced to a single, short chapter in the senior high school history course," Rhe New York Times reports. "Chinese Communism before the economic reform that began in 1979 is covered in a sentence. The text mentions Mao only once—in a chapter on etiquette. Nearly overnight the country's most prosperous schools have shelved the Marxist template that had dominated standard history texts since the 1950s."

Rosales' attack on rebels moonlighting as "have-gun-will-travel" taxmen does raise basic issues of democratic governance.

"The power to tax is the power to destroy," Justice John Marshall once wrote. Those who wrote the constitutions in free countries insisted that the power to tax be vested in elected representatives. They hemmed in taxes with clear-cut rates, limited periods, avenues for appeal, etc. Revenue agencies were created to scrub arbitrariness and ensure accountability.

Rebel "taxes" are the exact opposite. Unelected aging commissars, huddled in the Hague or mountain hideouts here, "authorize" AK-15 toting viceroys to corner "taxes" in whatever area their guns reach. On their own, they decide whom to clip, how much, when and how. They render no financial reports.

Nor have "taxpayers" a say on how their pockets are to be picked. Objectors are branded as "counter-revolutionary." That makes dissenters subject to summary penalties, from truck burning, equipment wrecking to salvaging. To whom are these "free lancers" accountable?

Is this the 21st century? Or is subcontracting the collection of taxes to private groups a throwback to the Middle Ages? Columnist Paul Krugman makes that point in "Tax Farmers, Mercenaries and Viceroys." In the 16th century, monarchs had no regular system of administration, Krugman recalls. So, "the king subcontracted collection to private tax farmers who often engaged in extortion ... (He) assigned the task to favored courtiers who tended to be corrupt, incompetent or both ... There was no regular army. So, the king hired mercenaries who tended to wander off and pillage the nearest village."

Krugman's analysis anchors Rosales' criticism: "[Even] pre-modern monarchs would have recognized the arrangement—a personal fief, run by viceroys, answering only to the ruler..."

Subcontracting tax collection to local warlords, in their fiefs, "of course, operated outside all the usual rules of government (as we know it). Hence, the viceroy was free to (do anything). Maybe it's cynical politics. But this privatization provides both an opportunity to evade accountability and a vast source of patronage ... But the price is enormous. [It] throws away centuries of lessons about how to make government work. No wonder it has failed at everything except fear-mongering."

In the Bondoc peninsula, NPAs "have sided with the landlords (who pay them taxes)" instead of defending the farmers, INQUIRER's Solita Monsod has written. In this fiefdom, "people's war" (thanks to "revolutionary taxes") is just another brawn-for-hire operations.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Expectations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M GLAD MANY FILIPINOS HAVE SAT UP and taken notice of Arvind Kejriwal, the Indian tax collector who has gotten the Indian government to give a full accounting of many of its projects. He has done this by getting the people to invoke the Right of Information Act passed by government in 2002 to compel such an accounting. Over the weekend, several people sent me text messages quoting a thought by Kejriwal on this subject: "Right to information is about truth coming out in public domain. It is about transparency. It is about ethical governance."

It's not hard to see why so many Filipinos would latch on to those words. Right to information, truth coming out in the public domain, transparency, ethical governance—those are things we have not got. Or those are things we no longer have. Indeed, the entire Ramon Magsaysay Awards this year are a humongous irony and take on the aspect of a satirical barb on the host country. Those awards are given to people who have advanced the cause of democracy in various ways in Asia. The last person it can be given to is the self-proclaimed leader—a monumental contradiction in terms in any democracy—of the host country.

Can we replicate Kejriwal's feat here? Well, we can always try but we have a steeper mountain to climb, courtesy of our own stupidity—we ourselves have built that mountain by our unwillingness to protest iniquity when it was still a molehill. Today, look at the obstacles that lie in our path in demanding right to information, truth coming out in the public domain, transparency and ethical governance: We have a Joc-Joc Bolante being aided and abetted by government in hiding the truth from the public. (And Raul Gonzales complains about Bishop Antonio Tobias giving aid and sanctuary to rebels, warning him no one is above the law!) We have public officials contemptuously scorning Senate summonses. Hell, we even have Virgilio Garcillano contemplating running for public office. The only good thing that can be said about it is that if he does become a congressman he'll be in perfect company with Joe de V, Edcel Lagman, the two Prosperos, et al. Birds of the same feather suck together.

But all these notwithstanding, Kejriwal's project still has a lesson to impart to us. It is that—no small reminder given that we pride ourselves quite ironically with inventing People Power—that the real power in any country is the people. Tyranny is only as good as the people are willing to be slaves. Good governance is only as good as the people demand to be governed well.

Specifically, Kejriwal's project highlights the incalculable power of **public expectation**. Expectation is what makes things happen because it carries with it an implicit demand that those things happen. That's easy to see in everyday life. You go out into the streets expecting vehicles to keep to their lanes, which is how it is in the developed countries, and you will have vehicles keeping to their lanes. In Hawaii in particular, people expect vehicles not to blow their horns other than in dire emergencies, so that what you have are streets free of noise pollution. You blow your horn there for no good reason and everybody stares at you and reduce you to the status of a worm.

On the other hand, you expect every other vehicle to refuse to fall in line but instead seize the opposite lane to try to get ahead of the others, and that is exactly what will happen. It will become the norm. Which is how things are in our streets. There is no law out there other than the law of the jungle.

Public expectation makes things happen because it is backed up by public indignation. By itself that is already a sanction: You reduce the person who does not conform to that expectation to the status of a worm. But more than that, you bring to bear more practical sanctions: You compel the law to exact its toll on lawbreakers. Law itself is only as good as it has the backing of public expectation and indignation to enforce it. No public expectation, no law. No indignation, no enforcement.

What is true of that simple case is true of complex cases as well. You expect, or learn to expect, that presidents will lie, cheat and steal, and presidents will lie, cheat and steal. You expect, or learn to expect, that candidates who steal the elections will prevent officials from appearing before the Senate or the courts, will bribe Congress to kill any effort to bring the theft to light, will hide the co-conspirators in the cheating in the US and elsewhere, and candidates will cheat. You expect, or learn to expect, that you have no civil rights under a democracy, not even the right to life, never mind liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and you will end up a collateral damage in Palparan's line of fire. Which is exactly what we have today.

On the other hand, you expect, or learn to expect, along with Kejriwal's favorite people, that you have every right to see that the hard-earned money taken from you in taxes is used to make your life easier and not to make Pidal richer, and you will compel government to give you an accounting of it. You expect, or learn to expect, that you have a right to talk and assemble freely without Palparan coming in to help you pursue happiness in the next life, and you will stop a government that exists at your sufferance from murdering you. You expect, or learn to expect, that you deserve democracy and not dictatorship, and you will get democracy and not dictatorship.

Government is only as righteous or wicked as the people expect, and therefore demand, it to be so. You expect to be treated as a human being, you will be treated as a human being. You expect to be treated as cattle, you will be slaughtered.

Let's have that dialogue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY'S NEWS SAID HOUSE MAJORITY Leader Prospero Nograles will lead a House contingent to dialogue with the senators on a House resolution seeking to convene a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. By all means, let's have that dialogue. This is the plea of majority of the people and various sectors, including the business community, and the senators cannot turn a deaf ear to them. What the House contingent should emphasize is that most senators stand a good chance of being elected to the new parliament, which will elect members by the region. For instance, I can't see why Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Nene Pimentel and Serge Osmeña can't be elected to a new parliament. In fact, we need them there. But it can no longer be the same set-up where the two chambers of Congress are perpetually gridlocked. It's too costly, too slow and too unresponsive to the challenge of the global age.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia, guesting at the dzRH program Cecile Alvarez and I co-host, stressed that Charter change is "now or never." He said that if this were to be postponed to beyond 2007, the 12 new senators wouldn't want their term to be cut by a shift to a unicameral parliament. And if we get to 2010 without such a shift, he said, the new president wouldn't want it either, as it would either cut short his term or abolish it altogether, or reduce him to a mere figurehead. Now, President Macapagal-Arroyo is going all-out for a shift, even if this means diluting her powers and sharing them with an interim prime minister. If we don't make the shift now, opined JDV, it would be effectively shelved for the next 25 or 30 years, by which time *napag-iwanan na tayo ng lahat ng Asia*. Now or never? It should be now.

* * *

Last Saturday, I wrote about a book-manual published by the Ateneo School of Government and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, mainly for neophytes who contemplate throwing their hat into the political ring. Titled "How to Win an Election: Lessons from the Experts" and edited by Chay Florentino Hofileña, it features actual experiences of politicians as they went through the various stages of campaigning, running and winning. Several of them graced the launch, during which they had a dialogue moderated by CheChe Lazaro, on various problems in their careers. South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance Fuentes, a former three-term member of the House of Representatives, spoke of having to cope with the constant threat of cheating and surviving in a macho culture. Mayor Omar Ali of Marawi spoke on the enormous amounts of money candidates in Lanao Sur's 40 municipalities spent to win. Mayor Jesse Robredo of Naga regards winning as a "marketing game," and he has been successful, getting his entire ticket elected for five terms. His secret: being credible.

* * *

But being credible is every politician's problem and helping the pols are the professional image makers. Yoly Ong of Campaigns and Grey and Malou Tiquia of Publicus, who joined the dialogue, said they chose their client well. As Malou put it, a candidate who's good for the pocket may not be good for the business. Do they repackage candidates? Malou said no, for despite any packaging the real persona will surface. Yoly said she merely "embellishes the truth." She handled the campaign of Raul Roco in 2004, while Malou helped Mar Roxas connect to the masses through his "Mr. Palengke" campaign that landed him on top of the heap. Both agreed that Jamby Madrigal successfully used actress Judy Ann Santos to connect to the D and E crowds.

* * *

Government authorities are exerting so much effort to identify the "security expert" who breached airport security by smuggling aboard a plane components for a bomb. The focus ought to be on how to prevent something like this from happening again and this obviously has to begin with educating airport security people on what to watch out for. I'm not surprised by what happened, for security at most Philippine airports seem to be lax despite the active work of terrorist abroad. One has only to watch personnel manning X-ray machines chatting with other employees, instead of scrutinizing all the items that pass through the monitor screen. When I pass through the airports, I often call the attention of the supervisor about this, but little seems to have changed.

* * *

While on this subject, travelers going through the Cagayan de Oro Airport complain that for years now the X-ray machine there has been out of order. Thus, every passenger is made to unpack all his belongings for all the world to see for a security check. It's such a terrible hassle for passengers and so primitive. The Arroyo administration has big plans to develop tourism in that part of the country, especially in nature-tripping activities such as white-water rafting and canopy-walking. In her Sona, GMA spoke of constructing an international airport in Lagindingan, Misamis Oriental, with Cagayan Airport downgraded to a commercial one. But obviously, before the big plans become reality, attention should be given to details such as fixing that X-ray machine. That's what people pay airport fees for.

Months ago, I wrote about the terrible state of the Iloilo Airport toilet facilities, but until now there has been no word from the airport manager. The Sta. Barbara International Airport is expected to be completed in 2009, but until it opens, something ought to be done to make the facilities at the Iloilo Airport work.

Some weeks back, Cecile and I had as guest Tourism Undersecretary Salvador Sarabia Jr., scion of hotel pioneers in Iloilo, and he told us about the big plans to develop Panay and Boracay as a major package for heritage- and eco-tourism. The oil spill tragedy will somehow set back that plan, but hopefully in a few months, that area will bounce back. But it's in the daily maintenance of ordinary facilities where we Pinoys are quite poor.

Still a lot to do

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DESPITE HAVING BEEN IN FORCE FOR 25 YEARS, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw) has yet to be fully implemented in the Philippines, an experts' committee appraising a Philippine government report has found.

Cedaw raised concerns about "the lack of progress in undertaking and completing necessary revisions of discriminatory provisions in national legislation and in enacting a comprehensive legal framework pertaining to gender equality."

Among the matters that drew the committee's concern was the provision in the Anti-Rape Law of 1997 in which charges would be dropped against a man accused of marital rape if he is subsequently "forgiven" by his wife.

On the matter of trafficking of women and girls, Cedaw urged the Philippines "to provide them with educational and economic opportunities, thereby reducing and eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers" and the "reintegration of [women in prostitution] into society and provide rehabilitation, social integration and economic empowerment programs to women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking." It urged the Philippines to "prosecute and punish traffickers and those who exploit the prostitution of women, and provide protection to victims of trafficking."

"I'm particularly very excited about the recommendations the Committee raised on health especially because the Committee recommended for the Philippines as a State Party to 'consider reviewing the laws relating to abortion with a view to removing punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion and provide them with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortions and to reduce women's maternal mortality rates in line with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health and the Beijing Platform for Action,'" says Clara Rita A. Padilla, executive director of EnGendeRights. Padilla, a lawyer, presented the NGO's collaborative Shadow Report to Cedaw during the Cedaw-NGO dialogue and actively lobbied with the Cedaw experts.

* * *

PADILLA, who issued a press release on the Cedaw recommendations, added that the committee also raised its concerns "on the 'existing discriminatory provisions of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws, which permit marriage of girls under the age of 18, polygamy and arranged marriages,' 'the practice of early marriage... among Muslim women,' and 'encourage[d] the State party to intensify dialogue with the Muslim community in order to remove discriminatory provisions from the Code of Muslim Personal Laws.'"

Cedaw also expressed "its concern about the lack of a law on divorce, making it impossible for women to obtain legal divorce" and urged the Philippines "to introduce and support vigorously legislation which permits divorce, allows women to remarry after divorce, and grants women and men the same rights to administer property during marriage and equal rights to property on divorce."

The Cedaw experts also recommended "the wide dissemination in the Philippines of the present concluding comments in order to make the people, including government officials, politicians, parliamentarians and women's and human rights organizations, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure (in the law) and de facto (in fact) equality of women, as well as the further steps that are required in that regard."

* * *

ENGENDERIGHTS drafted their collaborative Shadow Report together with the Center for Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Rights Resource Group-Philippines (3RG-Phils), and Health Development Initiatives Institute.

Cedaw is the committee tasked to monitor the implementation of the Convention, and the Concluding Comments contains Cedaw's observations and recommendations on the status of the drive for equality of women in the Philippines and the obligation of the Philippines under the Women's Convention to eliminate discrimination against women.

"Cedaw issued very holistic and reality-based Concluding Comments that urges the Philippine government and the Filipino populace to face the hard realities that Filipino women experience in our country and to act on them accordingly," Padilla observed.

Reflecting on their efforts in drafting their Shadow Report and lobbying with the Cedaw experts and the Cedaw's Concluding Comments, Padilla said: "It's like arguing in court and winning the case. Although I would have wanted for them to also issue their recommendations on the right to sexual orientation, I'm quite pleased with the Committee's Concluding Comments.

"A lot of our hard work paid off. We gave the Cedaw experts all kinds of materials from the Shadow Report, highlights/talking points, oral presentation, to our recommendations and even slips of paper with our comments. It's just a question of the people in government recognizing their full obligation to eliminate discrimination against women in laws and policies and the implementation of these laws and policies. It's time to spread the word," Padilla continued.

* * *

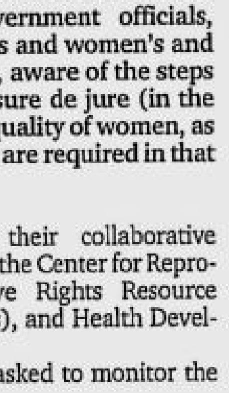
THE TRAVEL grant of EnGendeRights and 3RG-Phils to present their collaborative Shadow Report at Cedaw's session in New York was through the assistance of Canada Fund, Cordaid and Global Fund for Women. The upcoming Cedaw Post-Session to be conducted by EnGendeRights to popularize the Concluding Comments is through the assistance of Canada Fund.

The question now is: How will the government respond to these observations and comments, and how does it plan to actualize the recommendations, especially given the current environment and official thinking on women's rights and human rights in general?

Europe crosses the Rubicon

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer



THE SO-CALLED "EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD Policy" has, so far, been a curious thing. There is much talk about it in the European Union, but little practical effect. It was meant as an alternative to the ever-increasing number of accession rounds, say, involving the countries in the southern Caucasus. But the war in Lebanon and its consequences have caused a sudden and fundamental change in the leisurely pursuit of this policy.

The Lebanon War has served as a harsh reminder to the European Union that it has "strategic interests"—security interests first and foremost—and that, should it choose to ignore them, the price will be high. Moreover, the division of labor between the United States and Europe isn't functioning in the time-tested manner of old: The ongoing war in Iraq is gnawing at America's military capabilities and resulted in a crisis of moral and political legitimacy of the US across the Arabic/Islamic world.

With the decision of its member states to send several thousand soldiers to Lebanon to implement the UN ceasefire resolution 1701, the European Union has taken the most significant decision yet within its Neighborhood Policy. Can the EU in fact emerge as a stabilizing political force in the most dangerous area of conflict within Europe's immediate geopolitical neighborhood?

After the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, the Near and Middle East is at once the most dangerous and also, given security considerations, the most important neighboring region for the EU today. Why? Because the main threats to European security at the beginning of the 21st century stem from that region. The threats concentrated in the Middle East are diverse: Regional conflicts, totalitarian religious ideologies, terrorism, nuclear armament programs, blockades to modernization, unstable regimes and hegemonic ambitions.

If one asks what interests the EU and its member states have in this crisis-riddled region, the answer is, that certainly European energy and economic interests are at stake, as well as the vital interests of Europe's partners and allies (Israel, in particular). But first and foremost on the list are Europe's. How the Middle East develops will determine the extent of the risks for, or even probable challenges to, Europe's security. Success in containing, or indeed resolving, the conflict there will have overwhelmingly positive consequences for Europe's security.

The Middle East today is defined by three central conflicts: The Israeli-Arab conflict, Iraq and Iran. The fusion of Iran's nuclear program (and Iran's hegemonic ambitions) with the situation in Iraq and with Hezbollah in Lebanon will lead to a "New Middle East" which, in all likelihood, will provoke a major confrontation. This will involve far more than just the usual regional actors and conflicts. The war in Lebanon has made it abundantly clear how far this dangerous process has already progressed.

The mission in Lebanon is a high-risk one for the UN force, and for Europe in particular. The war did not bring forth a real decision. Neither Hezbollah nor Syria, let alone Iran, have any interest in the UN mission's success. The Security Council resolution presupposes—in addition to separating the combatants—the enforcement of the internal and external sovereignty of Lebanon's elected government, without saying how this is to be accomplished with a politically strengthened Hezbollah, militarily superior to the Lebanese forces.

Any attempt at disarming Hezbollah by the UN force would mean a war with Hezbollah (and with Syria and Iran in the background)—a task the UN force cannot accomplish. But were it to resign itself to mere observer status in Lebanon, the UN and Europe would lose all credibility. Moreover, it is likely that, within a few months, UN soldiers would once again find themselves between the firing lines of the conflicting parties. The mission therefore will have to walk the thin and risky line in pursuit of its robust mandate to stabilize the country. Failure will be a constant danger and the military risk will be high. Yet, in light of the situation there is no better alternative.

In view of the risk to its troops, Europe will be compelled to influence and even proactively bring about strategic changes to the political environment in the entire Middle East. With its decision in favor of the mission in Lebanon, the EU crossed a military Rubicon. It must now back up its growing weight in the Middle East with political initiative. This must include three key elements: A negotiated solution for Syria; a resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians; and a common strategic understanding with the US of the political strategy of the West for the region (which addresses the region's most dangerous conflict, Iran). This common understanding will be the pivotal challenge for the future of the trans-Atlantic relationship.

For Europe and its troops, the stakes in Lebanon are very high. But this is about vital European interests. War and chaos in the Middle East or just a moral or political vacuum will directly affect and upset the security of the EU and all its member states. Europe therefore had to act, though that decision was obviously difficult. The key question in the near future will be whether Europe actually has the military and political capabilities, the political staying power, and the common will to act in accordance with its core interests in the Middle East. We will see. In any case, one thing can already be said: Welcome to the real world. *Project Syndicate*

Joschka Fischer, a leader of the Green Party for nearly 20 years, was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005.

Silent voices

YOUNG BLOOD

Rachel Ann Asis Siñel

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT'S SO DISGUSTING THAT WE ALL SEEM PREOCCUPIED with politics. Of course, I agree that we should be aware of what's going on in our government. To be critical of political as swell as economic condition in our country isn't bad at all. But what's alarming to me is our tendency to focus on politics, on criticizing the government, so that we fail to notice other things that badly need our attention. And sometimes we are so busy looking too far ahead that we are unable to notice things that are right there lying near our feet, silently pleading for our attention.

Perhaps, we are aware of the floods that affected some parts of our country. We must have heard of the landslides that caused a number of deaths. But the question is, have we done anything to prevent these tragedies from happening again? Are there any government projects that will effectively preserve nature?

It's so sad that our leaders talk so much about building superhighways, airports and seaports but never speak about reforestation. Poor trees! If they could utter a word, they would be begging for our assistance. But, who knows, they might have been screaming but we were too busy to hear them. If one of them were to deliver its own version of the President's State of the Nation Address, it would probably go like this:

"I am the aged mango tree, standing here amid the arrogant, impressive and sophisticated mansions in this highly developed subdivision. At first glance, I may look so tall, strong, imposing, but I am really in the twilight of my life. But don't be deceived by my looks, for in contrast to what your eyes can see, fear is slowly gnawing at my insides. Deep inside me, I am terribly scared.

"I don't know what to do, and I've got nowhere to go either. Why? For the simple reason that I am now facing the end of my existence. But before that happens, let me share my upsetting story.

" I can clearly remember it. Two decades ago, I was proudly standing in an unexplored jungle set at the foot of a verdant mountain. Towering trees were deeply rooted on the ground, covering the entire area. Green foliage carpeted the terra firma with the lovely wild posies spreading their mesmerizing fragrance. The place resembled the Garden of Eden, with multihued and diverse birds filling the air with their sweet songs. This place captured the true essence of nature—untouched, invigorating, majestic.

"When humans started to appear, everybody panicked. They were total strangers and trespassers in our territory. Soon day after day, the frightening thud of falling trees could be heard from a distance. The sound drew nearer ... and nearer.

"One day, I was horrified to see my neighbors, my friends Narra, Acacia, Molave, Yakal, and even Guava, fall helplessly to the ground. The brutal teeth of chainsaws had slashed their bodies. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. I was stunned, but all I could do was weep silently in grief. Gone were my friends of many years. Gone were the endless humming of birds and insects. Gone were the frolicking wild beasts that I used to watch with pleasure."

"Our place became a paradise lost. My soul became numb. A tragic disaster, wrought by human hands, had changed everything in almost a wink of an eye. The place was turned into a human habitat. And I was the only survivor in our old neighborhood.

"Despite of man's cruelty, I remained faithful to him. I remained generous to him. I forgave his wrongdoing even though he never made an apology. I keep on giving him my fruits and my shade although I'm aware that he is gradually killing me for I can hardly breathe due to the overpowering pollution. I serve as his knight in shining armor as once, twice, thrice, countless times I saved him from the rushing floodwaters that filled the street where I am standing right now. But he never cared. He doesn't see all the things that I have been doing for him. Or if he does, he doesn't appreciate them at all.

"His heart must be made of stone for he act as if he cannot feel my overflowing love for him. He has never been contented with what I can offer him, and I guess he never will. He is asking for more. Just yesterday, I heard him say I needed to be cut for I have become a distraction, an eyesore.

"I wanted to protest, to shout in anger, 'How could you do this to me?' But I am voiceless. So now before I breathe my last, kindly hear my special request and grant my last wish: Please, please, save my friends, the trees around you. Please save Mother Nature before her wrath becomes uncontrollable, before she exact revenge on everyone. And please do something before it's too late."

I hope we will make an effort to listen closely to the voice of nature. And I hope we will notice the things we tend to take for granted. Trees and everything in nature need care. And they crave for human love and affection.

Rachel Ann Asis Siñel, 17, is an AB Broadcast Communication sophomore at the University of the East, Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Personal politics

"Politics is personal in the Philippines. No matter how much good you do, there will always be people who will want to stop you."

—Ilagan municipal administrator Ricky Langui, when asked about the probable motive behind the murder of Delfinito Albano, mayor of Ilagan, Isabela.

Unvarnished truth

"It's in the context of coming up with the truth and the truth is apolitical."

—Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, on the possibility that his filing of an impeachment complaint against the President may be regarded as a purely political process.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

ULAP is not a people's organization

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IF SIGAW NG Bayan were all alone—that is, without the aid of the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines—in pushing for constitutional amendments, then the idea of Charter change would have been more acceptable. No matter how often ULAP declares loudly that "We are a People's Organization," people will always see through it as the umbrella organization of the League of Barangay Captains, League of Municipal Mayors, vice-Mayors' league, councilors' league; 5) governors' league; 6) vice-governors' league; etc., composed of all the politicians in the Philippines.

The question is: May we sensibly believe that ULAP is a "people's" organization (PO)?

The answer: Certainly not, knowing who its members are, but above all, knowing its motive!

So, let's have no more of this fake people's initiative. (The people's initiative petition has been junked by the Comelec, but Sigaw has vowed to fight on.)

It is no secret that it was not Sigaw members but mayors and officials and employees of the Department of Interior and Local Government who did the pro-Cha-cha lectures; that it was not Sigaw members but barangay officials who did the house-to-house campaign. (I am the No. 1 *kagawad* in my barangay, so I know whereof I speak!). It was my fellow barangay officials who solicited the signatures of the people. The fact is 98 percent of pro-Cha-cha campaign was done by the ULAP and DILG. Not only that, barangay officials got at least P1,000 to do the dirty work, and then easily forgot that they were working for something that would undermine the interests of their own families, relatives and countrymen.

—COCOY LANIBA,
cocoy777@yahoo.com

Gonzalez unfair to UP and 'destabilizers'

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARticle "Gonzalez: UP breeds destabilizers, naked runners." (PDI, 8/27/06)

I am a proud graduate of the University of the Philippines. I learned a lot both inside and outside the classrooms of that proud institution. I give the university credit for much of what I am today. I am now employed with a leading banking institution, thus I do not burden the State as another unemployment statistic. Withholding tax is deducted from my salary every payday, supposedly to fund projects for national development. In my own way, I am repaying my country who paid for my education.

That is why it was with much dismay and resentment that I read the uncalled-for remarks of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales against UP students.

In my four years in the university, I never considered myself as a "destabilizer." Neither did I participate in the annual Oblation Run. But as a fellow Iskolar ng Bayan, it has always been a source of pride for me to be counted among those who fight for the much-needed social change in our country, which is still in the hands of self-serving politicians, seeking only to promote their selfish interests.

Gonzales may have meant to insult when he said that "in every storm that takes place, UP students are in the forefront." However, for me and for every UP student, it is a source of pride to be one of those considered courageous enough to take a stand for what they believe in at the risk of being jailed, tortured, or even killed. In case Gonzales does not know this, Sec. Michael Defensor and Amb. Rigoberto Tiglao were activists during their student days in UP.

It is unfair to UP to be branded as a breeding ground of destabilizers. Lest Gonzalez has forgotten, many entrepreneurs, industry leaders and government officials, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, are UP products. Some of us, students and alumni, may show our love to our country by joining street protests; others, however, by merely coming to class, by not failing our subjects, by paying our taxes regularly, or by providing employment, show our love for our country and for the people who pay or paid for our education.

Therefore, to brand us as a school of destabilizers and naked runners is an insult to the thousands of UP students who have helped shape the history of this nation. *Mabuhay ang mga Iskolar ng Bayan!*

—CHICO C. BORROMEO,
Jc_498@yahoo.com

Who will answer for missing articles

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH A LETter that appeared in the Aug. 29 issue of the INQUIRER. I have the same question regarding missing mail. Are they being pilfered? Until now the Pasay City postmaster has given no answer to this question.

I have a number of missing packages at the Pasay Central Post Office. Someone must be using the shoes, handbag and Herman's Hermits T-shirt that I ordered and paid for.

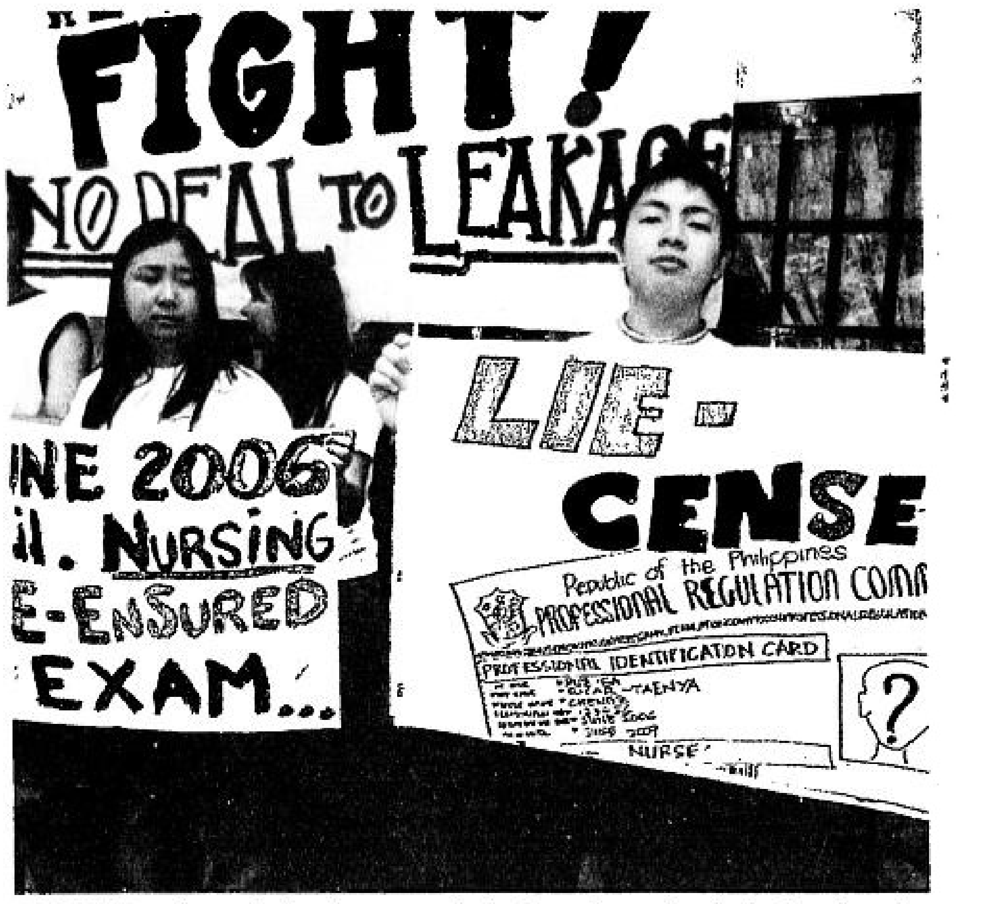
Who is supposed to account for our missing mail and who is investigating the cases of missing mail. And to whom do we write for help on this matter?

Earlier, my mother in New York sent me a check for my Christmas present last December 2005 and she asked me if I received it because when she did her accounting, she found out that my check was missing (never encashed). I never received it. Then my mother sent me shoes and a bag and later medical pocketbooks, which was also mailed and which I never received.

Lastly, I ordered a Herman's Hermits T-shirt, which was sent by ordinary mail and I did not receive that, too. I have reported all these missing mail to the Pasay City postmaster but until now I haven't been favored with a reply or an explanation.

Who is doing the stealing?

—NINA GOMEZ, Ninski_05@yahoo.com


FIGHT!
NO DEAL TO LEAKAGE
NE 2006
. NURSING
E-ENSURED
EXAM...
LIE-
CENSE
Republic of the Philippines
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMM
PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD
NURSE

NURSING graduates in Baguio protest the leakage of questions in the June board exams.

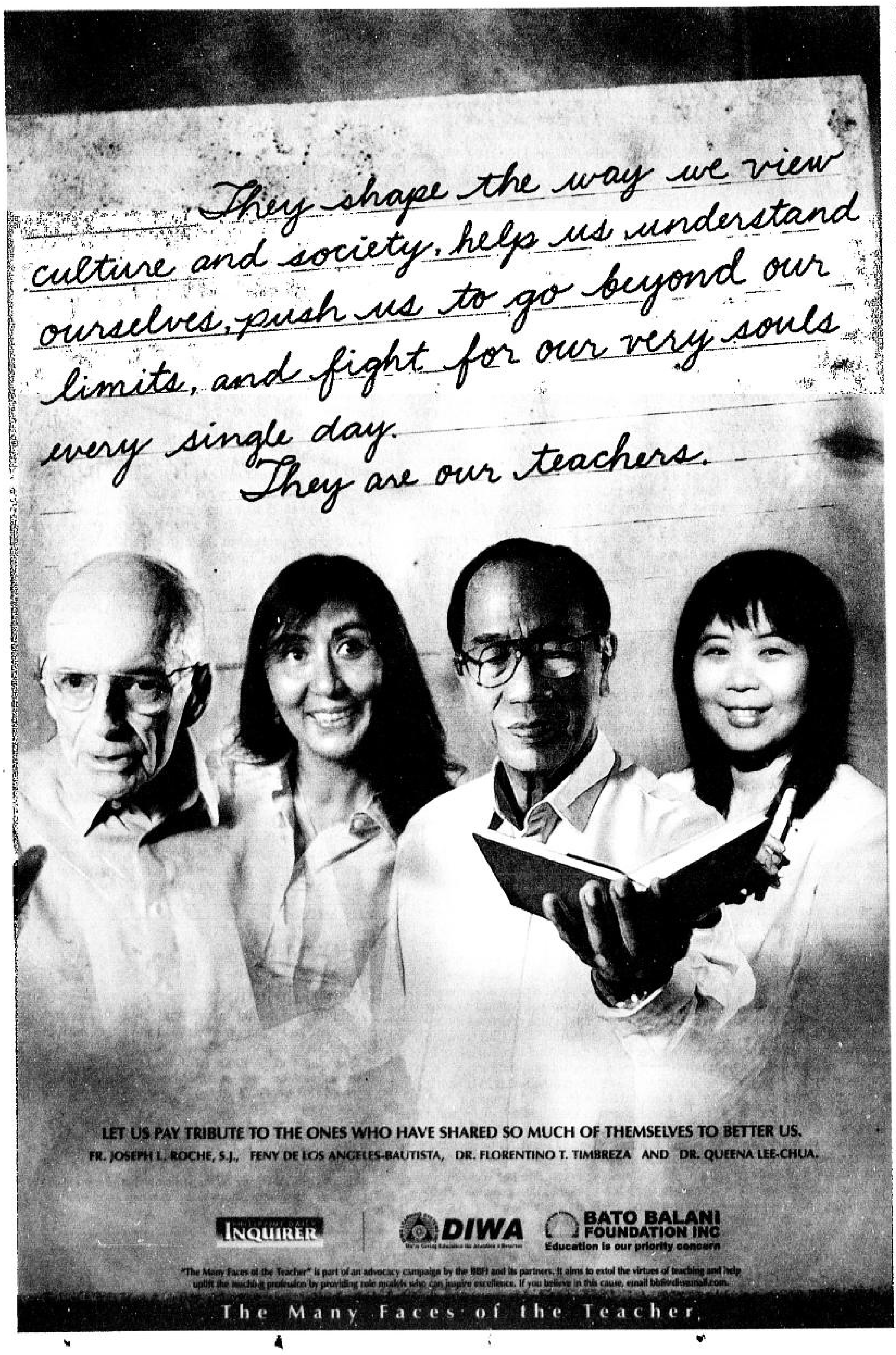
Forgotten nursing board examinees

THE LEAKAGE IN THE JUNE 2006 nursing board exam has focused the attention of the public and the media on the plight of the "passers" who object to the proposed "retake" and want to take the nursing oath. Totally taken out of the picture are the "non-passers" who would have passed if the results of Tests III and V were not recomputed. The recomputation produced unusually low grades such that the examinees' general averages were pulled down to less than the passing grade of 75 percent.

The national passing rate in previous examinations was in the average of 55 percent; in the controversial exam, it fell to only 42 percent, most probably because of the recomputation. This means that 13 percent of the 42,000 examinees or 5,460 nurses could have passed the exam under normal conditions, but because of the recomputation they failed. Just like in the case of the legitimate passers, it was not their fault that there was a leakage.

Since, it has been shown that there was a leakage and the recomputed grades do not reflect the true scores of the examinees, the best solution is to nullify the whole June 2006 nursing board exam, meaning all the examinees should go through a "retake." If this was done immediately after the leakage was confirmed, this controversy should have been over by now.

—EDGARDO AQUINO,
edzel82@yahoo.com


They shape the way we view culture and society, help us understand ourselves, push us to go beyond our limits, and fight for our very souls every single day.
They are our teachers.
INQUIRER
DIWA
BATO BALANI FOUNDATION INC
Education is our priority concern
The Many Faces of the Teacher.

LET US PAY TRIBUTE TO THE ONES WHO HAVE SHARED SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES TO BETTER US.
FR. JOSEPH L. ROCHE, S.J., FENY DE LOS ANGELES-BAUTISTA, DR. FLORENTINO T. TIMBREZA AND DR. QUEENA LEE-CHUA.

"The Many Faces of the Teacher" is part of an advocacy campaign by the BBFI and its partners. It aims to extol the virtues of teaching and help uplift the teaching profession by providing role models who can inspire excellence. If you believe in this cause, email [illegible]

Nursing profession needs cure

WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE scandal broke out, but the issues and dilemmas hounding the nursing licensure exam appear to be still far from a final resolution.

Meanwhile, the innocent examinees, the real victims of this scam, continue to suffer. Most of the examinees are being deprived of their opportunity to find a job, earn and help support their families. And to think that they have debts to pay, debts incurred by their families for their schooling and review. The longer it takes to bring this scandal to closure, the more the examinees and their families suffer.

Some hospitals have already announced they will not hire the services of the passers of the tainted exam. Not a few examinees have been rejected even for volunteer work in hospitals. Again, these examinees are innocent. Why are they being persecuted for a crime they did not commit? Their only fault, if it is at all, was to be in the scene of the crime perpetrated by vultures in the nursing profession. They are indeed in a situation that cruelly makes victims of the innocent.

On the other hand, the owners of the review centers linked to the leakage remain unpunished. It's business as usual for them. They continue to rake in profit from would-be nurses and their families. All because the government is slow in its investigation and no charges have been filed against them. It wouldn't be a surprise if one of these days, they would manage to skip town and escape accountability.

The leakage scandal is not just a question of retake or no retake. It is more importantly a matter of justice and it calls for a serious reappraisal of the state of our nursing profession. Everybody wants out of this scandal with a sense that justice has been served to one and all. But the government's indecisiveness is causing the examinees the jobs they immediately need. Malacañang's initial hands-off policy only raised more eyebrows.

Yet, there are concrete options that government can immediately act on. It can, for example, suspend the operation of review centers that have been linked to the leakage; place on the watchlist of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation the names of the owners of these review centers and the officials of the Philippine Regulatory Commission/Board of Nursing and Philippine Nurses Association; and revoke the professional licenses of all the nurses involved in the leakage.

As to the suggestion to subject the nursing profession in the Philippines to a deeper diagnosis, this is definitely in order. The June 2006 nursing board exam leakage clearly showed that the country's state of nursing is sick.

—DANI BELTRAN,
bluedove_xxx@yahoo.com

Leftist reps must denounce CPP-NPA

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE banner story titled "Militant solon hits NPA for extortion." (PDI, 8/30/06)

First of all, I would like to commend Rep. Etta Rosales for denouncing the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army for torching a truck belonging to an export company that refused to pay P30 million in revolutionary taxes.

The CPP-NPA has just confirmed itself to be a band of murderers and extortionists who are not fighting for any principle or ideology but who are in the hills carrying out their "armed struggle" for monetary reasons. They are no different from bandits.

I would like therefore to challenge Rep. Satur Ocampo and the other leftist members of the House of Representatives to denounce the CPP-NPA for its acts of violence against the Filipino people. Their refusal to do so should show that they still consider themselves CPP members and that they have been fooling the Filipino all these years.

If they are indeed the representatives of the people that they claim to be, they should condemn the CPP-NPA and enact laws that would protect the business sector from "downright gangsterism."

—OLAN C.RODOLFO,
olan.rodolfo@lycos.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

EZ2 31 28 | **FOUR DIGIT** 5 9 7 7

Evening **SUERTRES** Mid-Day

1 0 8 | 3 5 7

(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

6 8 11 15 30 35

₱4,860,448.20

Gunmen kill another Left leader in Agusan Norte

BUTUAN CITY—ANOTHER MILITANT leader was shot dead by motorcycle-riding men in Barangay Simbalan in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte on Sunday afternoon.

Analyn Lumawag, spokesperson of the human rights group Karapatan in the Caraga Region, said the victim, Jovito Pinakilid, 45, was the leader of tribal group Pigbawangan Higaonon Pangibasok (PHP).

Lumawag said Pinakilid, who had been campaigning for the rights of indigenous peoples in the province, was the 10th victim of attacks on left-wing activists in the region this year.

Pinakilid's killing happened more than a week after two militants narrowly escaped death after unidentified gunmen onboard a motorcycle fired at them in the remote village of Barangay Anticala this city.

Usual suspects

Lumawag accused the military of being behind Pinakilid's death and the attack in Anticala as part of its crackdown against leftists in the region.

But Maj. Nilo Amador, spokesperson of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based here, denied any hand in the killing.

Amador said they respect human rights and would not allow extrajudicial killings in the region.

Last month, farmer leader Hermilito Marqueza was gunned down inside his house in Barangay Maitum in Tandag, Surigao del Sur.

Chief Supt Antonio Nañas, regional police director, said police have already identified the suspect behind Marqueza's killing and charges have been filed against him.

Nañas said the suspect, William Suarez, an alleged assassin of the New People's Army, is now a subject of police manhunt.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had formed a commission headed by ex-Justice Jose Melo to investigate the killings, a move that was met with skepticism by her critics. *Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*

Appeals court stops DENR from enforcing Poro Pt. port closure

THE STREAMER says it all. Port operations return to normal, giving a breather to some 2,000 port workers who depend on the seaport for their livelihood. The legal battle, however, continues as parties that want the port contract rescinded are expected to pursue their campaign.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SEAPORT BUSINESS
AS USUAL...

DAGUPAN CITY—THE Court of Appeals has issued a 60-day temporary restraining order stopping the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from implementing the cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued against Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC).

PPIC, which has a 26-year contract to run the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City, was stopped on July 25 by the DENR Environmental Management Bureau in the Ilocos region from operating the port because of alleged environmental violations and for failing to secure an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said the CA order was issued to "avoid grave and irreparable injury to the (PPIC) consisting of huge economic losses that may result from its ouster from the operations, management, and administration of the Poro Point seaport as well as prevent disruption of operations of the port facilities."

Due process

Dulay said the PPIC had asked the court to annul and set aside the CDO because "there was no process (done) before it was issued."

"There are no legal or factual grounds existing to justify the issuance of the CDO," he added.

This week, the PPIC informed port users that the company was already back in business. "We are inviting the port users to discharge their goods at the Poro Point seaport," Dulay said.

But the PPIC has to contend with a Malacañang order diverting all vessels to the Subic port pending resolution of another case filed with the Court of Appeals that questioned the TRO that was issued first for 72 hours and a subsequent order issued for 17 days by the regional trial court in San Fernando City.

The case was filed by BCDA's subsidiary firm, Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC).

The CA decision was welcomed by regular port users and locators.

Peace and quiet

"We are confident that peace, efficiency, and professionalism will again reign inside the seaport with the resumption of business activities," said a manifesto signed by 45 locators.

The signatories include AFC Fertilizer & Chemicals Inc. Chevron Phils, Holcim Phils, National Food Authority, Petron Corp., Philex Mining Corp., Philippine Phosphate & Fertilizer Corp. and Pilipinas Shell, among others.

In its resolution, the CA noted that the CDO issued by the environment department might have been "hastily and improvidently used."

"It appears that the DENR order was issued on the same day that the PPMC, through lawyer Felix Singson-Racadio, sent a letter to the environment secretary, requesting that a cease-and-desist order be issued as soon as possible against PPIC," the CA said.

Other violator

"The PPIC's right to manage the Poro Point seaport pursuant to the pre-incorporation agreement with the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the John Hay-Poro Point Development Corp., now PPMC, takes the nature of a property right the deprivation of which must observe the basic tenets of due process," the CA added in its ruling.

The CA also noted that the alleged environmental infractions for which the CDO was issued were apparently not attributable to the PPIC itself, but rather to Saturn Marketing Corp. which is one of the users of the port.

The CA issued the TRO upon the petition of PPIC which earlier questioned the apparent haste and lack of due process in the issuance of CDO. The PPIC is a joint venture among BCDA, PPMC and private investor Bulk Handlers Inc. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Japan funds gov't repair of 110 km of Samar roads

By Ven S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE GOVernment is rehabilitating 110 km of roads in Samar and is building a 1.5-km bridge in Southern Leyte within the year. Total project cost is over P2.2 billion.

Jaime Pacanan, public works regional director, disclosed that the infrastructure projects would be financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation under the 25th yen loan package. *(See table.)*

The agency will also fund two other road projects in Samar but their implementation will be delayed, Pacanan said.

Contractors move in

Contractors of the road projects have already brought their equipment to the sites and are now conducting surveys.

Pacanan said he was still awaiting official notice to proceed with the rehabilitation works. "The moment the concurrence by JBIC is received by the (DPWH), the notice … will be issued (to the contractor) in 10 days," he said.

The projects are to be supervised by the DPWH's Philippine Japan Highway Loan Project Management Office here.

Also to start this year is the construction of the Agas-agas Bridge and approaches in Southern Leyte.

The existing bridge has been closed to traffic since February when a landslide blocked the road and rendered it impassable. Motorists are now taking the longer Tacloban-Baybay-Bato-Sogod route, traveling about one and a half hours more than before.

The bridge contractor, Sumitomo Construction, undertook the repair of the San Juanico Bridge two years ago.

Years of use

The Samar roads and the Agas-agas Bridge are part of the Pan Philippine Highway. Built more than 20 years ago, the concrete road sections are now in their worst condition as these are used by buses, trucks and refrigerated vans moving goods from Mindanao to Luzon and back, and other motorists.

UP FOR REPAIR

DPWH projects	Place	Length (km)	Cost (million P)	Contractor
1. Calbayog-Gatanguit road	Samar	52.7	806	China Road and Bridge Corp.
2. Gatanguit-Calbiga road	Samar	59.4	942	E. C. de Luna Construction
3. Agas-agas Bridge	Southern Leyte	1.5	500	Sumitomo Construction
4. Allen-Malaga road	Samar	35.7	524	
5. Malaga-Calbayog road	Samar	36.8	540	

NEW DEADLINE

PNP chief vows all-out war on 'jueteng'

By the Inquirer Northern and Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—The chief of the Philippine National Police on Monday said a fresh crackdown on "jueteng" operations in seven Luzon regions had been launched, with Friday set as initial deadline for the validation of the jueteng-free status of those areas.

"We started the new drive (Monday) and this is supposed to be all out. If [regional commanders] are not able to stop the game today up to Friday, I have readied teams from the national headquarters to conduct the raids," Director General Oscar Calderon told the INQUIRER by mobile phone.

The campaign covers the Ilocos, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol and Metro Manila.

Aside from arresting underground lottery collectors and conducting raids, police chiefs in the provinces, cities and towns were also directed to coordinate the campaign with the local governments, Calderon said.

"Local officials have a corresponding responsibility in this. It cannot just be the police," he said.

If there was a "deadliest (ultimate) deadline," Calderon said he would have it by the end of the month.

"If at the end of the month there are still areas where jueteng exists, then we will take extra efforts there," he said.

He said he reiterated his instructions to police chiefs to "exert extra attention and efforts in areas where the government-approved small town lottery has licenses and is used as cover for jueteng by either bookies operators or STL collectors."

He said he also suggested to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the government agency that grants STL licenses, to do more promotions for STL. "This is the legal game so it must be maximized," he added.

In Central Luzon, jueteng operations ceased in Zambales and Olongapo City as of Monday morning, according to Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director.

"That is based on the morning reports. That still has to be continually validated. Operations are ongoing in Tarlac," he said.

He said it might take the Central Luzon police two to three days to complete the validation. "Jueteng is not like a machine that you can shut off in a day," he added.

In the Pampanga capital city of San Fernando, the supposed campaign appeared to have been ignored. Jueteng collectors in a village went on collecting bets without hitches at least by past 3 p.m. Monday.

In Dagupan City, Archbishop Oscar Cruz said jueteng operations in Ilocos region, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog have been diminishing. *Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Desiree Caluza and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Mayon residents moved to safer, but hotter evacuation centers

LEGAZPI CITY—MAYON EVACUEES in the San Andres resettlement site in Sto. Domingo, Albay have been transferred from their old shanties made of wood and nipa to the newly built and safer prefabricated shelters even if they have to bear too much heat inside.

The prefabricated shelters made of galvanized iron sheets, steel framing, and plywood were built last week through the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol.

There are now three units being occupied by nine families there but there are 18 more prefabricated shelters to be built.

Romeo Cabria, action officer of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council in Sto. Domingo, said that though the prefab shelters were safer, the evacuees complained of too much heat inside during the day.

"The temperature inside these shelters reaches 34 degrees Celsius starting 10 a.m. But the evacuees do not have any other choice as we had to demolish the shanties they had made," Cabria said.

Evacuees continue to decrease in number as around 3,222 persons from the villages of Salvacion, Miisi, and Busay in Daraga, Albay have been decamped since Sunday.

Now there are only around 27,412 persons in evacuation centers.

The decrease in the number of evacuees had also lessened the occurrence of diseases among the evacuees, said Dr. Luis Mendoza, provincial health officer.

"The cases of acute respiratory infection has decreased to only 19; diarrhea to only one; hypertension, 2; asthma, 6, but we will still continue our disease surveillance to prevent any outbreak," Mendoza said.

Volcanologists yesterday said lava flow from Mt. Mayon remained unabated in this quiet eruption while other parameters still indicated a high level of unrest so the alert level status of 4 could not be lifted.

There were 305 tremor episodes and 11 volcanic earthquakes during the past 24-hour observation period.

The sulfur dioxide emission rate slightly increased to 2,961 tons daily from Sunday's 2,021 tons daily, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology yesterday.

The normal SO_2 emission rate of Mt. Mayon is 500 tons daily. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Reyes says 800,000 trees planted on highways

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO Reyes yesterday said that the recent nationwide tree planting activity on the country's highways exceeded targets set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Reyes said his flagship Green Philippine Highways resulted in the planting of more than 800,000 seedlings and saplings on almost 4,000 kilometers of the country's main thoroughfares from Luzon to Mindanao.

Actual figures from the GPH Operations Center at the DENR central office in Quezon City showed that as of Aug. 31, the program has resulted in the planting of 802,514 young trees exceeding the target of just 500,000.

GPH-OpCen statistics also showed that some 3,900 km of highways were covered by the tree planting activity compared to the target of less than 3,500 km.

"Because of the number of seedlings and saplings gathered (for the project), there was at least one area where the trees were planted five meters apart instead of ten meters," Reyes said.

Real time

In the run-up to the nationwide tree planting, GPH-OpCen received status reports from the 15 regional offices real time via the Internet.

"It shows how many seedlings and saplings have been prepared for the project by our private sector partners as well as by the government agencies involved. It also receives reports of memorandums of agreement entered into by the regional offices," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

"It even tells us how many holes have been dug for the tree planting activity," he added.

The GPH-OpCen has more than 22 computers, 15 of which coordinates with the 15 regional offices that have also been equipped with the same system. The other computers at the center are used for collating data and administrative functions.

The computers are also equipped with a web camera and audio that allows Reyes and central office personnel to communicate directly with those in the regions.

Aside from the teleconference capabilities via the Internet, the center is also equipped with radio communications equipment.

All smiles

With the OpCen, Reyes was all smiles on the eve of the major tree planting activity meant to control air pollution in the country's highways. He learned that there were already more than 800,000 seedlings and saplings for the activity that only requires 500,000 young trees.

"We'd no longer dismantle this office," Reyes said.

"This will be very useful in coordinating efforts in the regional offices to address such problems as the Guimaras oil spill which is a national disaster," he added.

The computers and communication equipment at the center are existing DENR equipment. Technical upgrades for the computers to become "operation center-ready" were donated, said Reyes, by the Federation of Philippine Industries.

Temporary water interruptions in portions of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, Pasig City and Manila needed to upgrade facilities and improve water distribution

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and distribution network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in several areas to be able to complete the construction work. The first interruption will affect portions of Quezon City starting 10:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., September 6, due to the replacement of a line meter. The following areas will be affected: New York, J. Jimenez and Banahaw.

The second activity will involve the isolation of a large pipeline and will affect portions of Mandaluyong City. The interruption will start 10:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, up to 6:00 a.m., September 6. Areas affected will be Barangays St. Joseph, Isabelita, Little Baguio, Maytunas, Tibagan, Onse, Sta. Lucia, Addition Hills, Corazon De Jesus and Pedro Cruz.

The third interruption, meanwhile, will involve the interconnection of large pipelines to improve water distribution. The water cutoff will start 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 6, 2006, up to 6:00 a.m., September 7. Affected areas will be Barangay Ugong in Pasig City.

Lastly, the fourth temporary water service interruption will affect portions of Manila. The interruption will be due to the replacement of a line meter along Punta, Sta. Ana. The water cutoff will start 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 6, up to 4:00 a.m., September 7. Areas affected will be Barangay 896 to Barangay 905 in Punta, Sta. Ana.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

Manila Water

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes, we improve lives.

(PDI – Sept. 5, 2006)

A DEAD clam sits amid a pool of black bunker fuel that spilled from tanker Solar I. The sight paints the destruction that the oil spill brought on the once pristine waters and the ecological resources of Guimaras and neighboring areas. HAZEL P. VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Oil spill forcing more residents to evacuate contaminated areas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—ELEVEN-year-old Aljun Margallo's classroom is only about 30 meters from where his family lives but he did not go to school this morning.

Aljun does not feel well because of a cough and slight fever. He said he would just stay home to rest and hoped he can return to school the next day.

Since Aug. 31, home for Aljun is an old school building at the Cabalagnan Central Elementary School in this town, about 30 km south of the capital town of Jordan, Guimaras.

Aljun is among the residents of Sitio Banacan in Barangay Cabalagnan forced to leave their homes near the shoreline due to health risks from the odor and fumes coming from the oil slick leaking from the sunken tanker Solar I.

The old school building, which serves as the school's conference hall, has been turned into an evacuation center. Families sleep on plywood beds covered with sleeping mats while classroom chairs and desks serve as tables.

Seven other families are staying at the school building while three families have relocated to the barangay health center and one family at the barangay hall. Ten other families are temporarily staying with their relatives.

Quarantine

At least 134 families, or nearly 400 persons, have been evacuated in the province. Most of them are staying with their relatives.

Health officials have quarantined a 100-meter radius from the shoreline of the villages of Cabalagnan and Lapaz after initial tests showed a very high level of toxicity in the area.

High levels of hydrogen sulfide and aromatic hydrocarbons like benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene and xylene were found.

Guimaras officials are preparing for more evacuees pending the results of tests in other coastal villages contaminated by the oil spill.

"*Sugot man ko magsaylo diri kay para indi mahalitan sang bangker* (It's alright to transfer here so that we will be spared from the bunker fuel)," said Aljun, a Grade 5 pupil and eldest of five siblings.

The evacuees have been living on food subsidies from government agencies and Petron Corp. A family of four gets two kg of rice, six cans of sardines and three packs of instant noodles. These are good for two days, social worker Beulah Lynn Gailan said.

The oil spill, considered the worst in the country's history, has destroyed the livelihood of thousands of residents who rely mainly on fishing and gleaning. The Coast Guard believes around 1.8 million liters of bunker fuel are still inside the sunken vessel's cargo tanks from its total load of 2 million liters.

The spill has affected 6,156 families, or 30,531 persons, in four towns in Guimaras and two others in Iloilo as of Sept. 1.

It has destroyed or heavily damaged the environment and marine life including sea grass (12 hectares), corals (30 ha), coastline (220 km), coral reef (15.8 sq km), mangroves (431.5 ha), seaweeds (58 ha) and fishponds (823.5 ha), according to a report of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

Homesick

Roberto Nam-ay, 50, one of the evacuees staying at the school, said they want to go home but they knew that the situation is dangerous.

Everyday, he checks on their house at 7 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. to feed their 13 chickens and a suckling pig.

"They might be stolen along with our *karaoke* (audio system). But we can't bring them here," said Nam-ay.

Since the spill, fish catch has gone down to almost nothing, according to Cabalagnan village chief Escolastico Geonauga.

Before, fishermen can bring home from 25 to 30 kg of fish every time they went out to sea.

Geonauga said the number of evacuees in their barangay is still manageable but he is worried that residents from neighboring island-barangays will be relocated to his village.

Aside from the food assistance, the affected residents are living by working in the cleanup operations in the shoreline.

Petron has hired around 1,000 residents in the affected villages in the cleanup. They have been paid P200 daily when the operations started on Aug. 19 and P300 starting Aug. 29.

The giant oil company is spending P300,000 daily for the workers in the cleanup alone, said Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan.

Nam-ay, who works four days a week at the cleanup site, said they are glad that they still have income despite being unable to fish anymore.

But he said the P300 daily is still not enough for their family of six. He said that before the oil spill, he could earn from P150 to P1,000 from fishing.

Even if there is fish to catch, there are no buyers even after the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources issued an advisory that fish from the waters of Guimaras are safe for consumption.

"We rarely eat canned goods before. But now it has been our regular staple because we have to buy fish in Negros," said Bernadeta Galabo of the neighboring village of San Roque.

But the residents are aware that the damage brought by the spill means more than the immediate loss of their livelihood.

"We don't know until when are we going to stay here but we can't go home as long as there's bunker fuel there," said Nam-ay. "We only hope the fishes have come back when the work is over."

Tickets to General Santos
₱99++ lang!
Pakyawin mo na!

Fly to General Santos, the tuna capital of the Philippines on board our brand new Airbus A319 aircraft. And with the most affordable fares, every Juan can now fly with Cebu Pacific.

Book early pay less at CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	LOWEST GO FARES
Manila - General Santos	5J 995	Daily	1335	1520	₱ 868++
General Santos - Manila	5J 996	Daily	1550	1735	₱ 868++

Sale Period : August 29 to September 5, 2006
Travel Period : October 2 to December 15, 2006

Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit our Cebu Pacific office or the Travel Agent nearest you.
Terms & conditions apply. One-way fares/vice-versa • Fares may not be available on all days & flights • ++ Fares are exclusive of applicable fees, taxes & surcharges.

CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

IN THE KNOW

Stingray: A relatively peaceful fish

THE IRONY OF STEVE IRWIN'S DEATH IS THAT he was not killed by one of the deadly creatures he regularly handled, but by a relatively peaceful fish, scientists said.

The stingray is a flattish fish which rarely attacks humans.

"They are normally not aggressive and use their long barbed tail to protect themselves from predators, such as sharks and killer whales," said Sean Connell, a marine ecologist at the University of Adelaide.

It is not the venom from the sting that is most dangerous, scientists say.

"It has little to do with the venom and all to do with the trauma caused by the barb of the stingray," said clinical toxicologist Geoff Isbister.

Stingrays have a long tail containing barbed and venomous spines which they can thrash side to side or up and down.

There are over 80 subspecies of stingrays, whose width varies from 25 cm to 4 meters. Some can grow up to 4.3 meters long.

Powerful tail

Large stingrays can break a wooden boat using their tail.

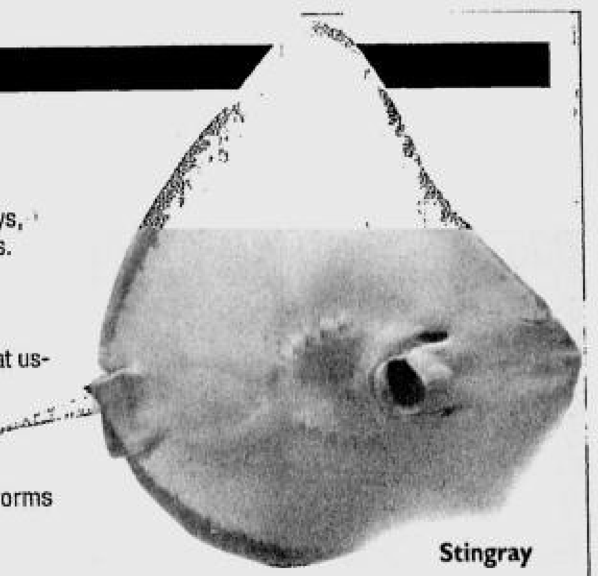
Stingrays are found at the bottom of warm waters. They often cover themselves with sand for camouflage. They feed on small fish, mollusks, worms and other bottom-dwelling animals.

Pain, then death

They use their sharp tail to sting people who step on them.

The great force with which they lash their tail, combined with its poisonous spines, can cause extreme pain and even death, especially to someone stabbed in the chest or abdomen.

AFP and Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



Stingray

Siphoning oil feasible option ...

From page A1

would decide in the next couple of days, based on the report to be submitted by the Japanese survey ship Shinsei Maru.

But Cruz said he was in favor of attempting to siphon the remaining bunker oil from the tanker rather than trying to refloat or entomb the vessel.

The Shinsei Maru, owned by Fukada Salvage and Marine Works, was contracted by Petron to find the tanker last week. The Japanese ship left Guimaras on Saturday night after completing its task.

Cruz said that according to the ship's findings, siphoning off the remaining oil appeared to be the most feasible option compared to refloating or entombing the tanker.

The survey, however, could not estimate how much oil remained inside the Solar I, although it found that the oil had not yet coagulated. One option was to use ultrasound equipment to determine this.

"Probably in the next two days, (the task force) will have a recommendation to probably siphon off the remaining oil. Although it is quite costly, at least it will ease the anxiety of the people," Cruz told a news conference yesterday.

He said Fukada's services might be hired again if the plan to siphon off the remaining oil pushes through.

He could not say how much the process would cost, but said this would be shouldered by the insurance firm of Petron, which chartered the Solar I to transport the bunker fuel oil from Bataan to Zamboanga City. The ship sank in rough seas off Guimaras on Aug. 11.

Capt. Lino Dabi, Philippine Coast Guard chief of staff, said the Shinsei Maru's report would first be discussed by the PCG's technical working group before it makes a recommendation to Task Force Guimaras.

He said the ship's survey found that a small quantity of oil was leaking continuously from two tanks of the Solar I.

The PCG estimated that at least 500,000 liters of the 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil carried by the Solar I had already spilled into the waters of Guimaras and the nearby provinces of Iloilo and Negros since it sank.

'Bio-remediation'

Cruz said attempts at "bio-remediation" in the affected areas were being done, particularly to help the residents who lost their main source of livelihood.

Representatives from the insurance groups that would compensate those affected by the oil spill—the International Oil Pollution Contingency Fund and the P&I Club—were scheduled to proceed today to Guimaras to discuss the process of filing claims, said Virginia Ruivivar, Petron public affairs manager.

Also yesterday, the hearing to establish criminal liability for the oil spill opened at the Department of Justice with a Petron executive disclaiming responsibility for the country's worst environmental disaster.

Petron distribution manager Rolando Salonga told a DOJ panel that Petron had no direct control over the crew and captain of the Solar I. He said the company only dealt with Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the tanker.

Possible cause of listing

At the Special Board of Marine Inquiry yesterday, Glenn de la Torre, representative of the Philippine Trigon Shipyard that repaired the tanker during its drydocking earlier this year, said water coming into the two ballast tanks could have caused it to list.

De la Torre later told reporters that waves buffeting the ship could have put more weight on the vessel and could have led to its sinking.

"If water came in, it would cause unequal distribution of load … or if waves entered the ship and you have more weight on the top compared to the buoyance, the ship will sink," he said.

But he also said there were an "infinite" number of reasons for the listing and sinking of the tanker.

De la Torre also said that the Solar I had been certified by the International Association of Classification Societies, which he said was considered a prestigious group, thus attesting to the seaworthiness of the vessel.

Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja, SBMI chair, said the board was looking into whether the ballast tanks aboard the ship might have filled with water and caused the tanker to list to its starboard side and eventually sink.

Triangular puncture

Abinoja downplayed an INQUIRER report on a closed-door SBMI hearing on Friday during which an expert from the Japanese research vessel reported that its remote-operated vessel that probed the Solar I last week had taken a video of a triangular puncture in the tanker that indicated it might have struck a container van that had fallen off a cargo vessel in stormy waters.

"The hole was in the port bow. It was not likely to have caused the vessel to list on its starboard side," he said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Armand N. Nocum*

Stingray kills Aussie ...

From page A1

on Monday after its barb pierced his chest, police said.

The iconic Irwin, 44, known for his enthusiastic handling of even the deadliest of wildlife, was stung as he was filming an underwater documentary on the famed Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the northeastern Australian state of Queensland.

"It is believed that Mr. Irwin collapsed after being stung by a stingray at Batt Reef off Port Douglas at about 11 a.m.," a police statement said.

Ambulance service officials said Irwin had suffered a puncture wound to the left side of his chest.

Crew members aboard Irwin's boat, Croc One, administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques as they rushed him to meet a rescue helicopter. He was pronounced dead at about midday.

Stingrays have several sharp and highly toxic barbs on their tails that they use to defend themselves when they feel threatened.

Deadly as a bayonet

"(They) are also like a bayonet, like a bayonet on a rifle," Australian wildlife filmmaker David Ireland said. "If it hits any vital organs it's as deadly as a bayonet."

"The world has lost a great wildlife icon, a passionate conservationist and one of the proudest dads on the planet," John Stainton, Irwin's friend and producer, said in the statement.

"He died doing what he loves best and left this world in a happy and peaceful state of mind. Crocs Rule!"

Irwin was married to US-born Terri Irwin and the couple had two children, aged 8 and 3. He met Terri at the zoo.

Rallying cry

The garrulous animal lover's rallying cry of "Crikey" when faced with a crocodile, snake or ferocious-looking spider, made him an Australian icon across the world.

His "Crocodile Hunter" show, in which the tousle-haired adventurer appeared in his trademark khaki shorts and shirt, was first broadcast in 1992 and has been shown around the world on the Discovery cable network's Animal Planet channel ever since.

The shows had a worldwide audience of 200 million.

His outspoken persona became so popular that he won a cameo role in a Hollywood movie, "Dr. Dolittle 2," starring US comic actor Eddie Murphy.

Defying death

Irwin was raised in Queensland by parents who owned small reptile park. The young Irwin became a crocodile trapper, ridding residential areas of their reptilian threats for a fee.

Irwin's fearless approach to the animal kingdom, however, provoked international outrage when he involved his infant son in one of his death-defying antics.

In 2004, he fed a crocodile with one hand while clutching his baby son Bob in the other during a show at his Australia Zoo reptile park.

But Irwin was unrepentant when confronted about the incident in an interview.

First croc

"What I would do differently is I would make sure there were no cameras around," he said.

Irwin, who caught his first crocodile at the age of 9, had many close calls with rare and dangerous animals, crawling through forests and rivers around the world.

He boasted that he had never been bitten by a venomous snake or seriously bitten by a crocodile, although he admitted his worst injuries had been inflicted by parrots.

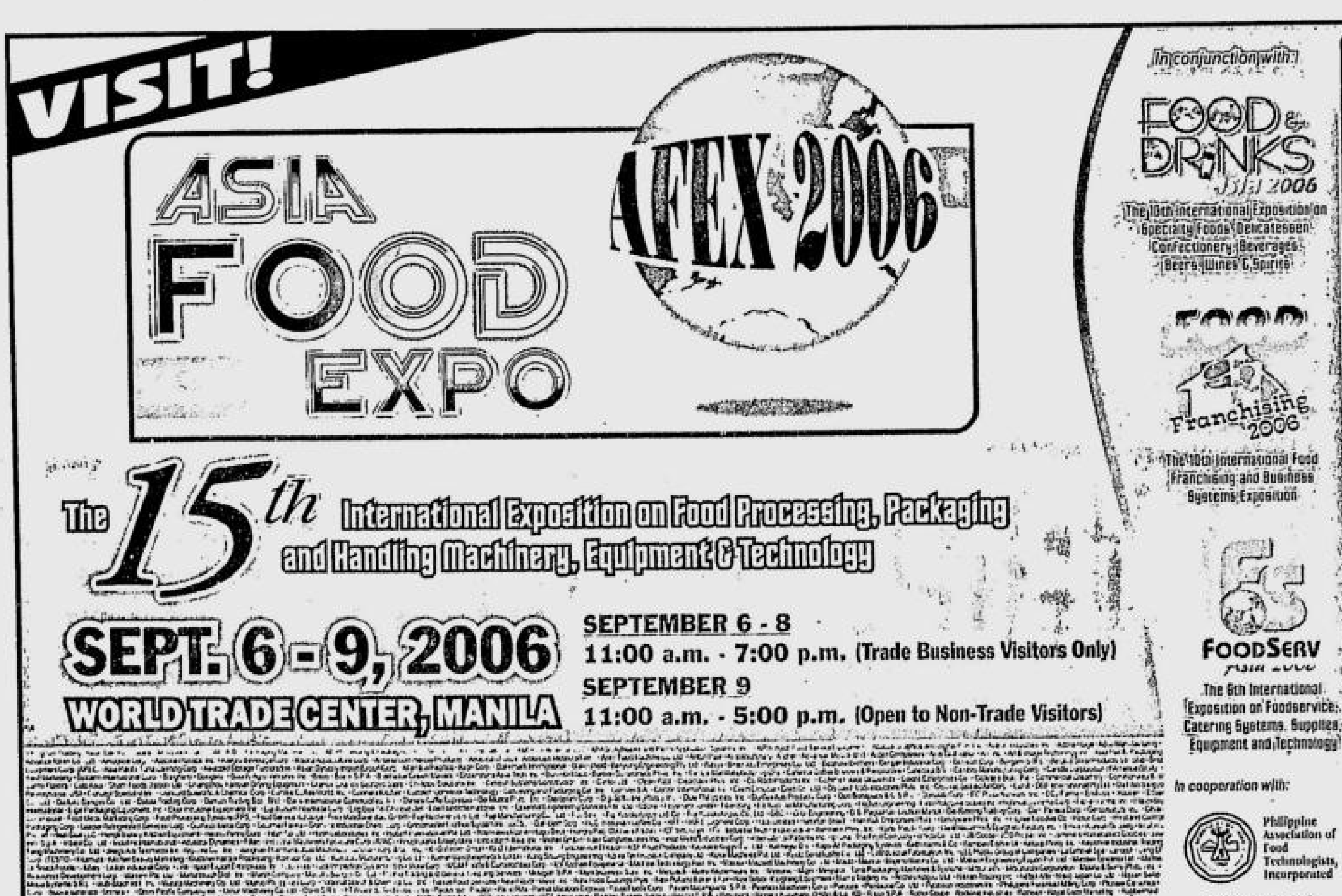
"I don't know what it is with parrots but they always bite me," Irwin once said. "I don't know what they've got against me."

Australia mourned the loss of one of its best-known sons, with shocked radio listeners and television viewers calling in to express their grief and disbelief. *Inquirer wires*

Ming's
PEI PA KOA CANDY

kyla
Singer, R&B Princess
Available in
60g±10% & 120g±10%
BFAD No. FR-53721 NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
Exclusively Imported & Distributed by:
SR FOODS PHILS.
Tels.: 561-8168 • 0922-8760738
email: srfoods_phil@yahoo.com
Available at mercury drug and other leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.
WE WELCOME LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO DISTRIBUTORS SPECIFICALLY FOR CEBU, CAVITE, BATANGAS, TARLAC, PANGASINAN, NUEVA ECIJA, SAMAR & LEYTE AREA.

LIKAS NA LAKAS
Essential element for health and energy.
NA NASA SA'YO.
Ming's
TIENCHI GINSENG CAPSULE
- Anti-Stress
- Helps in lowering blood pressure
- Improves the regularity of heartbeat
- Relieves chest pain due to the lacking of blood in the heart
- Improves metabolism regularity
- Reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease
- PROMOTE GROWTH
THE POWER TO DO MORE!
BFAD NO. FR-55844
Ming's
Pearl Capsule
Show your youthful glow!
- Promotes sound sleep
- An anti-aging agent for long, healthy and active life
- A unique calcium and body tonic
- Revitalizes body and optimizes body functions
- Supports healthy heart, eyes, skin, bones, liver, sexual organs, blood and energy circulation
- Helps to lower the fast aging process and promotes well being
- Consumption of pearl capsule results in lustrous, pure beautiful skin
BFAD NO. FR-57380
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
Available in:
Watsons
ELOV CHINESE DRUG STORE
Located at selected malls
Anselka's Health & Beauty,
RX Nutrition (3/F Starmall Mandaluyong)
Hortaleza (Quiapo & Baclaran branch),
Nat'l Bazaar Supermarket (La Union)
and in various stores in the province of Davao.
MING'S PEARL CAPSULE also available in EMMAFLOR
Exclusively Imported & Distributed by:
SR FOODS PHILS.
Tels.: 561-8168 • 0922-8760738
email: srfoods_phil@yahoo.com
WE WELCOME LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO DISTRIBUTORS SPECIFICALLY FOR CEBU, CAVITE, BATANGAS, TARLAC, PANGASINAN, NUEVA ECIJA, SAMAR & LEYTE AREA.



VISIT!
ASIA FOOD EXPO
AFEX 2006
The 15th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment & Technology
SEPT. 6-9, 2006
WORLD TRADE CENTER, MANILA
SEPTEMBER 6 - 8
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Trade Business Visitors Only)
SEPTEMBER 9
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Open to Non-Trade Visitors)
[illegible]
Attire: BUSINESS (No Shorts/Sandos/Sandals) • BELOW 18 Yrs. Old are NOT ALLOWED ENTRY
In conjunction with:
FOOD & DRINKS Asia 2006
The 10th International Exposition on Specialty Foods, Delicatessen, Confectionery, Beverages, Beers, Wines & Spirits
Franchising 2006
The 10th International Food Franchising and Business Systems Exposition
FOODSERV Asia 2006
The 6th International Exposition on Foodservice, Catering Systems, Supplies, Equipment and Technology
In cooperation with:
Philippine Association of Food Technologists, Incorporated
"45th Annual Convention"
September 5 - 7, 2006
Heritage Hotel
COOKING / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Exhibition Hall - Activity Area
SEPTEMBER 6 – Wednesday
11:00 AM TRENDS, RECIPES, TECHNIQUES
By Chef Jun Jun De Guzman, Chef Dorothy Ferrena, Chef Joey Prats
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
11:00 AM NEW DEL MONTE PARTY DRINKS, SHAKE, POUR & SERVED
By Ms. Angie Castillo
1:00 PM WILTON CAKE DECORATION
By Ms. Susan San Miguel
2:30 PM EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE AS EQUILIBRIUM INTERTRADE LAUNCHES THE NEW TORANI PURE FLAVORS
4:00 PM I. CAKES & TORTE VARIATIONS USING CHIFFON & BUTTER-BASE CAKES
II. EL REAL HOLIDAY PASTA DISHES
By Chef Dennis Hipolito
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
11:00 AM ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE
By Ms. Dorothy Ferrena
FLOWER MAKING
By Ms. Avelina Florendo of CCS Bakeshop & School
1:00 PM DONUT & CORNDOG FACTORY CART BUSINESS
By Ed Franco
2:30 PM COOKING DEMO
By Sysu International
4:00 PM EXOTIC ASIA. FOOD OF THE GODS - A FIERY QUEST INTO THE MAGIC FLAVORS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
By Chef Jundy Guaco
SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
11:00 AM CHEF MEETS THE BAKER
By Ms. Heny Sison & Chef Gene Gonzales
TECHNICAL SEMINAR / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Seminar Room 1 & 2
SEPTEMBER 6 - Wednesday
2:30 PM DEVELOPING YOUR OWN SPECIALTY FOOD - BEVERAGE SAUCES, YOGURTS DIPS ETC (Sem Rm 1)
4:00 PM STEAM ACCESSORIES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS (Sem. Rm. 1)
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
10:30 AM DIODE ARRAY 7200 EXPRESS LAB NIR ANALYZER, A NEW AND SMART TECHNIQUE (Sem. Rm. 1)
1:00 PM LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN MODIFIED STARCHES FOR USE IN MEAT AND BAKERY (Sem. Rm. 1)
2:30 PM INDUSTRIAL CLEANING SOLUTIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY (Sem. Rm. 1)
4:00 PM SOURCING EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA (Seminar Rm. 1)
4:00 PM I. NEW EUROPEAN FOOD DIRECTIVES IN 2006 & IMPLICATIONS TO ASIAN FOOD EXPORTERS TO THE EU COUNTRIES (Sem. Rm. 2)
II. TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN FOOD PROCESSING, STORAGE, REFRIGERATION AND FREEZING (Sem Rm 2)
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
9:00 AM FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS (Sem. Rm. 1)
I. Overview of Franchising Industry
II. Franchise Advantage
III. Franchise Development Process
9:00 AM WORLD-CLASS LABORATORIES FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF PHILIPPINE FOOD PRODUCTS
By Phil. Assn. of Laboratory Instrument Users (Sem. Rm. 2)
1:00 PM AES LABORATOIRE: YOUR PARTNER FROM SAMPLE COLLECTION TO RESULTS IN MICROBIOLOGY (Sem. Rm. 1)
2:30 PM GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ESPRESSO MACHINE (Sem. Rm. 1)
4:00 PM TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ON BOILER TECHNOLOGY FOCUSING ON ENERGY CONSERVATION (Sem. Rm. 1)
SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
9:00 AM A TO Z OF BUYING A FRANCHISE (Sem Rm 1)
1:00 PM I. INVENTORY CONTROL USING LABELING A PLATFORM SCALES
II. ADVANTAGES OF USING INSTA-PANEL FOR COLD STORAGE CLEAN ROOM (Sem Rm 1)
2:30 PM WHEAT FLOUR QUALITY TESTING, HANDLING & STORAGE (Sem. Rm. 1)
2:30 PM MEGA PROFITS IN THE COFFEE BUSINESS (Sem. Rm. 2)
SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:
Office of the President of the Philippines • Office of the Vice-President of the Philippines • Senate of the Philippines • Department of Agriculture • Department of Trade & Industry • Department of Tourism • Department of Science & Technology • Office on Muslim Affairs • Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry • Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. • Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. • Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, Inc. • Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. • Philippine Association of Supermarkets, Inc. • Philippine Association of Food Technologists, Inc. • Philippine Franchise Association • Packaging Institute of the Philippines • Philippine Association of Laboratory Instrument Users • Integrated Food Manufacturers Association of the Philippines for Productivity • International Wines & Spirits Association, Inc. • Meat Importers & Traders Associations, Inc. • NCR Meat Processors Association, Inc. • Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines • Hotel & Restaurant Chefs' Association of the Phils., Inc. • Food Entrepreneurs & Exporters of the Phils., Inc. • U.S. Department of Agriculture
OFFICIAL HOTELS: SPONSORS:
For further information please contact:
TRADE INFORMATION MARKETING & EXHIBITIONS, INC.
Tels.: (632) 834-0085 to 86 • Fax: (632) 831-3828
Website: www.afex.com.ph • E-mail: tradeinfo@pldtdsl.net

Imagine printers that multi-task just like you do.

SCX-4200 Printer
P13,450
- print - scan - copy
- Up to 19 ppm print and copy speeds at 600dpi
- Up to 600 dpi effective output resolution
- Copy functions: Auto Fit, Clone, Poster, ID Card
- Compatible with Windows, Macintosh, Linux

SCX-4521F Printer
[illegible]
- print - scan - copy - fax
- Up to 20 ppm print and copy speeds at 600dpi
- 4800 dpi enhanced color scanning
- 33.6 Kbps fax modem, 3-second transmission
- Copy functions: Auto Fit, Collation, Clone, Poster, ID Card

- print - scan - copy
- Up to 15 ppm print/copy speed
- Copy functions (ID copy), 2-up, Auto-fit, clone, poster copy
- Up to 99 page Multi-copy, 20%-400% zoom copy

SCX-4100 Printer*
P6,995

DVD-P260K

Get a FREE DVD player for every purchase of a Samsung SCX-4200 Multifunction Printer.

DVD-P260K
- 14Bit/108MHz Advance Video DAC
- Multi Progressive Scan (PAL/NTSC)
- Digital Audio Output (Optical & Coaxial)
- DVD/CD/VCD/SVCD/MP3/WMA/JPEG/Playback
- EZ View/Instant Replay/Instant Skip
- Karaoke Function

SAMSUNG

Samsung Customer Contact Center: TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.

Metro Manila Dealers:
• Accent Micro Products • Complink • Electroworld • Infoworx • NT Computer • PC Chain • PC Live• Silicon Valley • Villman
Provincial Dealers
• Accent Micro Products-Cebu • Bitstop- Dagupan • Columbia Computer- Davao • Concept Computer- Iloilo • Electroworld-Cebu • Electro • Data Computer Systems- Tacloban • Emcor- Davao • Gaisano Interpace- Cagayan de Oro • Thinking Tools- Cebu• Silicon Valley- Cebu • X-Computer- Cebu

*Only available at Complink, Silicon Valley, Villman, Concept Computer and Gaisano Interpace.

IMELDA would win the election if the fight for Manila mayor becomes a six-cornered slug fest, says her daughter, Rep. Imee Marcos. This photo was taken in Caloocan City on her 77th birthday on July 2, 2006. AP

Imelda wants to be mayor of Manila

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS, WHO was crowned Muse of Manila in 1953, is "seriously" considering running for city mayor in next year's elections, according to her daughter.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said her mother—who gained worldwide notoriety for her extravagance during the Marcos dictatorship—would formally announce next month whether or not she would be running in the mayoralty race.

Imee added that she was confident that the former first lady would win the election if it becomes a six-cornered slug fest.

"My mother has a solid vote in the depressed areas of Manila. *Sa* Dagat-Dagatan *pa lang sa* Tondo, *malamang ma*-zero *sila ng nanay ko* (In Dagat-Dagatan, Tondo alone, my mother would likely get all the votes)," Imee said.

She added that the time was ripe for her 77-year-old mother to join the mayoralty race with the large number of politicians set to throw their hat into the political ring.

Imee noted that incumbent Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna; Ali Atienza, son of Mayor Lito Atienza; businessman Mark Jimenez; Rep. Joey Hizon and Senators Alfredo Lim and Panfilo Lacson had been reported as among those interested in running for mayor of the city.

"If they all run, my mother obviously has the advantage. I'm sure their votes would be divided while my mother would have the solid vote in Manila," she said.

Imee said popular support for her mother was strong in the city's depressed areas like Sampaloc, Tondo, Quiapo, Binondo, Sta. Cruz and San Miguel.

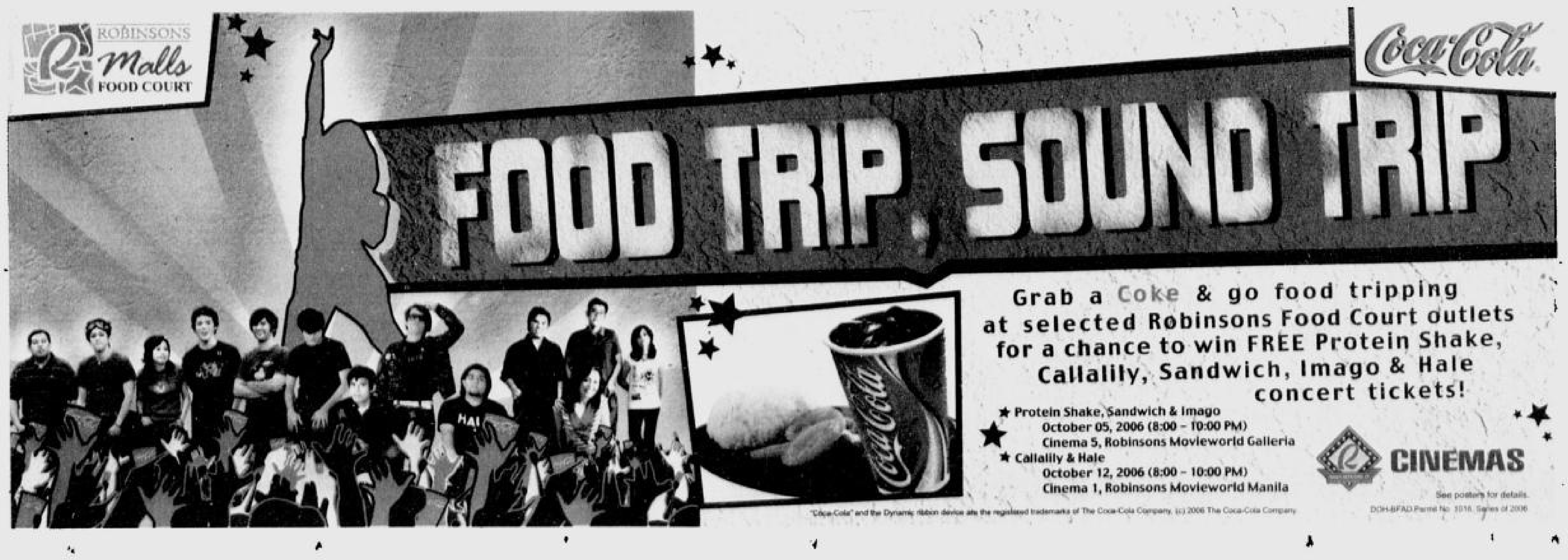
Marcos, who is also a former beauty, gained notoriety for her extravagant lifestyle during the presidency of her husband, the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the country with an iron hand.

She became known for her large shoe collection and extravagant parties while the country sank into poverty during the last years of the Marcos regime.

The Edsa I People Power Revolution toppled the regime in 1986 and the Marcoses went into exile in Hawaii, where Ferdinand died in 1989.

The Marcos widow returned to the country in 1992 and ran for president but she was defeated.

In 1995, she won a seat in Congress, representing the first district of her home province Leyte. In 1998, she made another bid for the presidency but was once again defeated.



Grab a Coke & go food tripping at selected Robinsons Food Court outlets for a chance to win FREE Protein Shake, Callalily, Sandwich, Imago & Hale concert tickets!

★ Protein Shake, Sandwich & Imago
October 05, 2006 (8:00 - 10:00 PM)
Cinema 5, Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
★ Callalily & Hale
October 12, 2006 (8:00 - 10:00 PM)
Cinema 1, Robinsons Movieworld Manila

See posters for details.
DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1016, Series of 2006
"Coca-Cola" and the Dynamic ribbon device are the registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. (c) 2006 The Coca-Cola Company

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

32 gov't execs face malversation raps

Office vehicles issued to officials spotted in malls, markets

By Norman Bordadora

THIRTY-TWO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS allegedly using government vehicles for private purposes were charged with malversation yesterday in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Among those included in the charge sheet were director Elizabeth Navalta of the energy policy and planning bureau of the Department of Energy, Bureau of Internal Revenue Assistant Commissioner Aida Simborio, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. treasurer Silvano Uy, Assistant Secretary Corazon Ginete of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, director Blandino Maceda of the interior department in Albay, director Ramon Tionloc of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration and public works director Anastacia Santiago.

Also charged, according to Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni—head of Oplan Red Plate which conducted the campaign—were Marikina Vice Mayor Marion Andres, Quezon City Councilor Eric Medina and two other city officials, Mayor Gene Morania of Candelaria, Zambales and Malolos, Bulacan legal officer Jeffrey Cruz.

According to Jalandoni, most of the government vehicles apprehended in the drive were spotted in malls like SM North Edsa in Quezon City and Blue Wave mall in Pasay City and in markets.

"We have a no-contact policy in monitoring these government vehicles," he said when asked if the officials charged were actually the ones using the vehicles when these were spotted. When members of the task force spot a government vehicle parked in a mall or in a market, they coordinate with the Land Transportation Office to determine which agency or government office the vehicle was issued to. "We then issue a subpoena to those concerned asking them to explain why they were using the vehicles after office hours on weekdays and on weekends," Jalandoni said. "Once, we saw a government vehicle used on two successive weekends to do the family's marketing."

Members of the task force were deployed all over the country to implement the drive aimed at conserving government resources, particularly in the face of rising fuel prices.

The Ombudsman said that based on a conservative estimate of P100 per vehicle, the government spends about P9 million monthly in fuel and maintenance costs because of the unauthorized use of government vehicles.

BREAK TIME

Taking time off from work, these women enjoy a balmy Sunday afternoon at the University of the Philippines Sunken Garden in Diliman, Quezon City playing with their pet dog.
JOAN BONDOC

Tricycle fare to cost ₱2 more in Makati City

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TRICYCLE DRIVERS IN MAKATI WILL START charging their passengers an additional P2 beginning this Sunday.

"We will begin issuing fare matrices to the legitimate tricycles and the increase in fare would be implemented on Sept. 10. The tricycle drivers are aware of the hike and they are now awaiting the matrices," Hermenegildo San Miguel, director of the city's Department of Public Services, said in an interview yesterday.

The hike, unanimously approved by the City Council in Ordinance 2006-004 last month, raised the tricycle fare from P5 to P7. On the other hand, students, the elderly and persons with disabilities would have to pay P6 from the previous fare of P4.

Some 3,200 tricycles operating in the country's financial capital are expected to benefit from the increase which they had earlier sought, citing rising fuel costs.

The City Council said they granted the drivers' petition "in view of economically empowering the thousands who depend on the tricycle transport industry for their livelihood."

Driven by his dreams, Jose Mari Aldecoa traveled the long road to success. BPI Family Savings Bank was with him throughout the journey.

In the mid 80's, a young man named Jose Mari Quimpo Aldecoa, who was then working abroad, decided to come home to help run the family business. *"It seemed fate was leading me back to where I truly belonged – in Aklan"*, Mr. Aldecoa said.

The big opportunity to open his own business came in 1989. Mr. Aldecoa was convinced by his father-in-law to invest in the motorcycle business in Kalibo. At first, the business started as a separate division of his father-in-law's appliance store. But by 1996, his growing business proved that it could already stand on its own. So, Mr. Aldecoa opened Village Motor Traders.

From 1998 to 2005, Village Motor Traders opened several other branches in Aklan and Antique. *"To sustain the steady growth of our business, we needed the help of* BPI Family Savings Bank. *It helped us maintain our liquidity"*, Mr. Aldecoa shared. Just recently, he opened a subsidiary, an exclusive dealership of the most popular motorcycle brands, plus parts and service functions. A loan from BPI Family Savings Bank's Grow Your SME Business Loan made it possible.

"We have big dreams, big plans for our business. We want to go global in the near future by better meeting the needs of our kababayans, the Expat Pinoys. We are not afraid to travel the long, difficult road to success. We know BPI Family Savings Bank *will always help us in our journey"*, Mr. Aldecoa said, obviously happy and proud of how far his business has gone through the years.

VILLAGE MOTOR TRADERS

Get started on growing your business today.

For more information, call 754-6880 or 89-100, log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you.

Grow your BUSINESS LOAN

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow.

Provincial Business Centers:
Bacolod : (034) 435-0639 • Cagayan de Oro : (088) 856-2902 • Cebu : (032) 231-3097 • Dagupan : (075) 523-4679 • Davao : (082) 235-3560 • Iloilo : (033) 337-8025
• Lipa : (043) 757-1000 • Naga : (054) 811-1042 • Pampanga : (045) 961-7795 • San Pablo : (049) 562 0364

METROBRIEFS

Different kind of loot

FOUR robbers who barged into a grocery store in Marikina City on Sunday night took not only the store's earnings, but over P30,000 worth of cell cards. PO3 Edwin Arce told the INQUIRER the four robbers entered the store in Barangay Concepcion Dos at about 7 p.m. Sunday. They pretended to be customers at first but after a few minutes, they pulled out cal. .45 handguns and declared a holdup. They took the cash from owner Herminia Borla, 57, and even grabbed her son's cell phone. The robbers then saw the cell cards which were sold at the store and took them, too. They then got into a red Nissan Sentra and fled. Witnesses, however, later identified one of the four men as Ryan Jacinto, who also uses the name Randy Salonga. Jacinto had been jailed in 2003, also for robbery, but he was out on bail, Arce added.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Slay suspect found guilty

A NAMESAKE of composer Louie Ocampo was found guilty of killing a young man during a brawl in Malate, Manila six years ago. In his decision, Judge Reynaldo Alhambra of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53 sentenced Rocky Louie Ocampo to 30 years in prison for killing Moper Menez. The court also ordered him to pay the victim's heirs more than P850,000 in damages. Court records showed that the incident happened at around 12:45 a.m. on Feb. 6, 2000. The victim, along with two other friends, was walking on Nakpil Street when he was beaten up and stabbed by the accused and several other unidentified suspects.

Tina G. Santos

Books for QC students

SOME P600,000 worth of hardbound reference books on English, Mathematics and Science will be distributed to public schools in Quezon City, thanks to a donation by an American foundation. In hopes of boosting the literacy and learning skills of public school students, the Children International-Philippines Housing Foundation Inc. has donated second-hand books to the city. The city government and CI-PHFI, an affiliate of the Kansas-based Children International, recently signed a memorandum of agreement to formalize the terms of the donation. Quezon City was represented by schools division superintendent Victoria Fuentes while CI-PHFI was represented by its manager of programs Divina Ramirez. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. expressed hope that the donated books would help students learn their lessons and develop in them a love for studying and reading.

DJ Yap

Pasay mayor appeals suspension case

By Norman Bordadora and Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY City students who joined a vigil for suspended Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad at the City Hall grounds sign what they called were "attendance forms" as proof of their presence in the event. The mayor, vice mayor and 10 councilors of the city have refused to leave the premises since the order was handed down on Friday. REM ZAMORA

PASAY CITY MAYOR WENCESLAO "Peewee" Trinidad, who has been slapped with a six-month suspension order by the Ombudsman, yesterday said he intends to bring his case to the Court of Appeals.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno announced this yesterday, saying he received a notice of appeal from the mayor's lawyers.

"I have forwarded the document, together with the Ombudsman's suspension order, to our legal department for further study and instructed our Undersecretary for Local Government, Wencelito Andanar, to take the appropriate action on this case immediately," he added.

Puno, however, said he has yet to receive an official copy of the Ombudsman's order suspending Trinidad, his vice mayor and 10 Pasay councilors.

"What I have on my table is a xerox copy of the order. That's not official. I can't suspend somebody on the basis of what I have read in the newspapers," he told the INQUIRER.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni, however, said that a copy was immediately sent to Puno on Friday afternoon, right after Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's order was released to the media.

"It might have been caught in the traffic of documents in the Department of the Interior and Local Government," Jalandoni added.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 of the city's councilors were ordered suspended for allegedly entering into questionable contracts for garbage collection and disposal in 2004 and 2005.

They have been holed up since Friday night at City Hall where their supporters have gathered to hold nightly vigils.

Trinidad led yesterday's flag-raising ceremony which was attended by at least a thousand of his followers who carried streamers and placards bearing expressions of support for the 12 officials.

Two other mayors—Jejomar Binay of Makati and Lito Atienza of Manila—were also there.

"I have always been a gentleman of the first order and when a gentleman draws his sword, he intends to use it. Let my opponents know that this gentleman holds a drawn sword and it shall remain unsheathed from now on. I have survived numerous battles and have never run away from one," Trinidad told the crowd after reading a passage from Paolo Coelho's "Warrior of the Light." He added that he would exhaust all legal options to stay at his post.

In another corner, barangay employees wearing orange shirts were busy giving their names to someone who was in charge of checking the attendance.

Two charged with forgery for making fake peso bills

By DJ Yap

A PRINTING PRESSS OWNER AND HIS cohort are facing criminal charges for their alleged involvement in the large-scale production of fake peso and dollar bills.

Sotero Balagosa, alias "Terry," and Juanita Asis, alias "Nitz," were charged with forging treasury or bank notes and documents in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

The two were arrested last month after a raid on Balagosa's CYNA Printers at 38 Naguilian St., New Haven Village, Novaliches yielded counterfeiting equipment and several peso and dollar bills that later proved to be fake.

The National Bureau of Investigation learned of Balagosa's alleged counterfeit activities when "Jojo Kulot," another counterfeiter, asked an agent posing as a buyer to get in touch with Balagosa to ask if he wanted to invest in the operations.

The undercover agent befriended Balagosa, who later showed her the plates, microfilms and paraphernalia used in the production of fake bills, according to the NBI.

She was also given a sample of the counterfeit P1,000 and P500 bills, as well as $100 bills, which when presented to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas were confirmed to be fake, the NBI said.

On Aug. 29, the NBI secured a search warrant from Judge Jose Paneda of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 220, leading to the raid on Balagosa's printing press and his arrest.

Asis, who had been seen handing 13 counterfeit P1,000 bills to Balagosa while under surveillance, was also arrested, but her role in the counterfeit production was not clear in the charge sheet.

Demoralized Marines

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SECURITY OFFICIALS WANT TO TAKE into custody the antiterrorism expert who smuggled into a domestic airliner bomb components that he assembled inside the plane's lavatory.

They want to know who ordered the man to do a simulated terrorist act, with the view of arresting him, too.

That's no different from the olden times when the king killed the messenger of bad news.

Why condemn the antiterrorism expert for exposing security lapses at the two premier airports—Manila and Davao? The authorities should even be thankful to the expert and his boss.

In developed countries, security forces are always on their toes because they're not only on the lookout for enemies of the state but also government people who test the limits of their preparedness programs.

We've seen this in a James Bond movie where the main character took on the role of an enemy of the state and succeeded partly in breaching security in a simulated raid. Agent 007 was finally stopped by alert uniformed guards of the Royal Army in that movie.

Airport security people obviously didn't expect to be upstaged by a civilian antiterrorism expert.

Their ego was pricked, that's why they want him and his boss arrested and grilled.

* * *

If it turned out Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte commissioned the expert to conduct the test, the authorities would be making a big mistake to take him in.

First, because Duterte—granting he did that—is the presidential adviser on antiterrorism.

Second, because the incident would be blown up into a cause celebrè.

The mayor would want to test the security of our airports because several years ago, the Davao City airport was bombed, killing and wounding scores of people.

Besides, if they arrested Duterte, they would be in for a big fight. Duterte would fight back and he would be backed by the whole city.

* * *

Eight Marines were killed in a firefight in Sulu, the biggest casualty figure in a single battle for the Armed Forces' "fightingest" group.

My sources in the Philippine Marine Corps said many members have become "very lax" as a result of demoralization in the ranks.

Many of the Marines have lost their will to fight, said one of my sources, because their best officers are in jail after being implicated in the February failed coup.

They were referring to Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, former Marine commandant, and Col. Ariel Querubin, a medal of valor awardee.

If the demoralization in the Marine Corps is not checked, many more of its members will be killed in battle.

DID YOU KNOW

IN HIS desire to make Manila one of Southeast Asia's financial centers, former President Ferdinand Marcos signed in 1974 Presidential Decree No. 520, which authorized the Central Bank of the Philippines to construct a conference center where international financial institutions could hold meetings. On Sept. 5, 1976, the Philippine International Convention Center, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, was opened. Its architect, Leandro Locsin, was later named a National Artist. The PICC is the first international convention center in Asia. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

ISM official fired; 2 trustees quit board

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A SCHOOL FOR expatriate students was fired yesterday, allegedly due to differences with some members of the board of directors.

According to sources within the International School Manila (ISM), Superintendent David Toze's relief came only two days after his contract was renewed by the board.

Two members of the board of trustees also quit their posts last week to protest other members' use of their positions to "pursue personal campaigns and vendettas."

"It was evident in recent elections that certain trustees were elected by openly abusing the proxy system and these trustees have continued and will continue to act as representatives of a pernicious minority who do not, I believe, represent or promote the wider interests of the ISM community," Burke A. Fishburn said in his resignation letter sent last week to ISM president Gracita Gilda Bocanegra.

Meanwhile, the other trustee, Rowina Tan-Sabin, decried the lack of "constructive partnership," transparent communication and outright hostility between some directors and teachers.

Other e-mailed exchanges between Bocanegra and "concerned ISM stakeholders" focused on the former's management style and the board's lack of transparency.

Some 116 members of the school faculty and support staff have asked for a meeting with Bocanegra on Thursday to discuss the school's problems.

The INQUIRER went to the school and tried to get the side of the Board of Trustees yesterday, but no one wanted to give a statement. A teacher whom the INQUIRER contacted said she could not give any information for now.

With Jo R. Uy

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
Mabini Extension, Cabanatuan City

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, the Republic of the Philippines, thru the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), hereby subjects under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) your landholdings with the following description.

Registered Landowner/s	Location of Property	Title No.
Adelaida Tolentino	Macatbong, Cabanatuan City	T-8776
Sps. Reynaldo Tolentino & Lucia Busog	Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	NT-114559
Faustino T. David	Makabaklay, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija	NT-180874
Manuel Azarcon	Balaring, Gen. Natividad, Nueva Ecija	T-2894
Manufacturer's Bank	Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City	T-6934/19577
Filipinas Marketing Corporation	Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	NT-63513
Sixto Samano	Poblacion, Laur, Nueva Ecija	OCT-3459
Quality Tabacco Corp.	Luyos, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	NT-71484
PHIVEDEC	Siclong, Laur, Nueva Ecija	NT-183433
Renato Hernandez	Bakodbayan, Cabanatuan City	T-22837
Sps. Jose F. Flores & Paz Cruz	San Francisco, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	OCT-P-6746
Sps. Macario Tabora & Luisa Fernando	Santor, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	T-10095
Consolacion Mauricio	Caalibangbangan, Cabanatuan City	T-4503
Celso Hernandez	Bakodbayan, Cabanatuan City	T-22840
Renato Hernandez	Baokdbayan, Cabanatuan City	T-22837
Mandalay Filipinas Marketing Corp.	Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	NT-95847
Maria Abes	Pias, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	P-3445
FIL-HOMES Realty & Dev't. Corp.	Magsaysay Norte, Cabanatuan City	T-51388
Rufina Magtalas & Carlos Favor	Talabutab Sur, Gen. Natividad, Nueva Ecija	NT-138883
Sps. Tiburcio Aquino & Juana Ramos	Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	NT-T-1095

Whenever applicable, you have the right or privilege to:
1. Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;
2. Choose your retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 RA No. 6657;
3. Nominate your child/ren who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies to the subject landholding;

To exercise any of the above rights/privileges, the necessary application or petition should be filed before the Government incurs any expense necessary for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding, within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of this Notice of Coverage (NOC) or in cases when publication is necessary thirty (30) days from the date of its publication.

Within thirty (30) days from receipt of this NOC, you are required to submit to the DAR Provincial Office (DARPO) a sketch map of the area you intend to retain. Otherwise, the DAR will identify and choose the retention area in your behalf.

The privilege to nominate your child/ren who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies is waived if you fail to submit to the DAR Municipal Office (DARMO), within thirty (30) days from receipt of this NOC, the proper application with the complete names of your nominees, their address, birth dates, and other relevant information.

Please submit to the DAR, within thirty (30) days from publication of this NOC, a Statement of Production and Net Income, or the applicable audited financial statement, which shall include, among others, total production and cost of operations on a per crop basis and selling price/s (farm gate) on the said landholding which shall be considered in the determination of the land value pursuant to Section 17 or R.A. No. 6657 and other applicable rules and regulations. In the event that you fail to submit the above documents within the prescribed period, the DAR and LBP shall adopt applicable industry data or in the absence thereof, conduct an industry study on the specific crop, which shall be used in determining the production, cost and net income of the subject landholding.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 405, dated 14 June 1990, the LBP shall determine the land value of the subject landholding. You shall be notified accordingly as soon as the DAR receives the LBP's Memorandum of Valuation

28 August 2006.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO A. RAYO**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI - Sept 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested authorized dealer/distributor to bid for the supply of the following vehicles:

a. Four (4) units Asian Utility Vehicle 2.5 Diesel Engine, 5-Speed Manual Transmission
b. One (1) unit 4x2 Pick-Up 2.5 Diesel, Manual Transmission

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid are as follow:

a. Php 3,040,000.00 – Asian Utility Vehicles
b. Php 920,000.00 – 4x2 Pick-Up

Source of Funding: Unprogrammed Fund R.A. No. 9336

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **August 29 to September 6, 2006** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. For further details, please contact Asst, Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **September 6, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of Technical and Financial Proposal will be on **September 18, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building and immediately thereafter, opening of bids will be held at the Hearing Room No. 2, Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED) 5th floor, SEC Building. Bids submitted after 1:30 P.M. will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

US junking terror cases due to weak evidence

WASHINGTON—THE NUMBER of terrorism cases brought by the Justice Department, which surged in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, has dropped sharply since 2002, and prosecutors are turning down hundreds of cases because of weak evidence and other legal problems, according to a study released on Sunday.

The study, conducted by a private research group at Syracuse University, found that federal prosecutors have declined to prosecute 2 of every 3 international terrorism cases brought to them by the FBI and other agencies since 2001.

The rejection rate was even higher for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, with 91 percent of the referred cases turned down for prosecution, the research group said. Among the most frequent explanations cited by prosecutors, the study found, were a lack of evidence of criminal intent by the suspect and "weak or insufficient" evidence.

The numbers brought differing interpretations from legal analysts, prosecutors, and government officials, many of whom said they were surprised by the findings, and are likely to add to the debate over the administration's legal tactics in prosecuting the fight against terrorism. The Justice Department immediately took issue with the study's methodology and its conclusions.

The study "ignores the reality of how the war on terrorism is prosecuted in federal courts across the country and the value of early disruption of potential terrorist acts by proactive prosecution," said Bryan Sierra, a Justice Department spokesperson.

"The report presents misleading analysis of Department of Justice statistics to suggest the threat of terrorism may be inaccurate or exaggerated," Sierra added. "The Department of Justice disagrees with this suggestion completely."

Department officials declined to discuss any details of what they considered the flawed methodology.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the Bush administration has pursued a strategy of investigating and prosecuting terrorism suspects within the United States to "preempt" attacks, rather than waiting for them to unfold.

The strategy, which administration officials say helps explain the absence of any further attacks on American soil, has been seen in cases like the arrests of seven men in Miami in June in a plot that the FBI said was "more aspirational than operational."

The approach has led critics of the Bush administration to say that prosecutors are routinely bringing terrorism charges in cases that do not warrant them. But the data from the Syracuse group suggests that for every prosecution like the one in Miami, there are many other investigations that never become public because prosecutors conclude there is not enough evidence to take them to court. *NYT*

Mexican leftist says he'll never recognize rival as president

MEXICO CITY—MEXICO'S LEFTIST opposition leader said on Sunday he will never recognize his right-wing rival as president and vowed a "radical transformation" of the country by setting up a parallel government.

Mexico's electoral court is almost certain to confirm the ruling party's Felipe Calderon as president-elect this week, but Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador insists he was robbed in the July 2 election.

"We will never accept usurpation nor recognize a president-elect who is illegitimate," the former mayor of Mexico City told a rally of thousands of supporters in the capital's main square.

"We are going for deep change, root change, because that is what Mexico needs," he said. "It is a radical transformation.

We are going for the construction of a new country that is fair and honorable."

For more than a month, his leftist supporters have been protesting the election result by occupying the giant Zocalo square, the symbolic center of power in Mexico since Aztec times. They have also taken over a long section of the main Reforma boulevard, paralyzing the city center and causing traffic chaos.

Lopez Obrador did not say how he plans to set up a parallel government but in the past he said his supporters could continue the current street protests for years if necessary. He has also promised to avoid violence.

Leftist lawmakers seized the podium in Congress and refused to allow President Vicente Fox to deliver his last state of the nation address on Friday night. He withdrew from Congress and made his speech on TV instead. *Reuters*

DIRT IS THEIR TRADE

Children march during an international meeting of chimney sweeps in the village of Santa Maria Maggiore, Italy Sept. 3. The annual meeting of the sweeps is held in memory of the children from the valleys of southern Switzerland and northern Italy who were sent off to work in Italian cities such as Milan during the winter in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

REUTERS

THE FOUR daughters of the Indian cotton farmer Neelkhant Haste pose with his picture as they mourn his death after he committed suicide by consuming pesticide.

AFP

105 Indian farmers killed selves in August

MUMBAI, INDIA— A record 105 farmers committed suicide in one of India's most prosperous states last month after they were unable to repay loans, an activist group said Sunday.

The deaths took the toll of suicides this year to 814, the Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti said.

The deaths came despite a 37.5 billion rupee ($815 million) aid package for the six drought-hit districts—collectively known as the Vidarbha region—announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a July visit to the area.

At the time, Singh acknowledged that debts among farmers have increased despite a booming Indian economy and said the "national problem" needs urgent attention.

Still, suicides continued because the aid package has done little to address a crippling debt crisis among the farmers, said Kishore Tiwari, president of the Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti, which keeps a daily log on farmers' deaths in the region.

Tiwari said the government's plan has failed because it ignored two key demands—a complete waiver of loans owed by Vidarbha farmers to banks and a minimum procurement price of 30,000 rupees ($650) per ton of cotton.

The package included a waiver only of interest charges. *AP*

Italian Marines deploy in Lebanon

TYRE, LEBANON—MORE ITALian troops deployed Sunday in Lebanon as part of the first major reinforcement in nearly 30 years of the UN mission there, to monitor a truce between Israel and the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

The troops, who began landing Saturday in the southern coastal city of Tyre, were to unload heavy equipment at the port of Beirut while about 150 commandos were slated to arrive at the capital's airport.

The last helicopter to bring men and supplies into the southern coastal city of Tyre landed after dark. A convoy of about 30 vehicles including soldiers, fuel tankers, amphibious vehicles and containers, then set out for a logistics base near Borj Qalauay, east of Tyre, to complete the initial deployment from five ships.

Lieutenant Andrea Catoni, a platoon leader at the base, told AFP that almost 800 soldiers, the bulk of the first Italian contingent, had arrived at two logistics bases in the area, from where they would begin to carry out patrols.

Army trucks came and went from one base, where the soldiers were erecting tents and a mess hall. *AFP*

S. Lanka troops capture rebel town

COLOMBO—SRI LANKAN troops Monday captured an eastern coastal town used by Tiger rebels to launch artillery attacks against the strategic naval port of Trincomalee, a government minister said.

Security forces moved into Sampur, 10 km (6 mi) across the Koddiya Bay from the Trincomalee naval and air complex, with hardly any resistance, Policy Planning Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

"We captured the main Sampur artillery position of the Tigers," said Rambukwella who is also the government's defense spokesperson. "We suspect they dismantled the guns or pulled them back. We are now in Sampur." He said troops moved in Monday after a lull in fighting Sunday.

However, a soldier was killed and several others wounded in an overnight mortar bomb attack against security forces in the area, military officials said.

The military had virtually suspended a ground advance towards Sampur at the weekend following weeks of fighting after intense rebel resistance. But the air force pounded the area using Israeli-built Kfir fighter jets clearing the way for ground troops to walk in, officials said. *AFP*

Chechnya's no good; how about Nokhchiin?

MOSCOW—THE PRESIDENT of Chechnya proposed renaming the war-torn region in southern Russia, saying its current name has a negative connotation, Russian news agencies reported Monday.

Alu Alkhanov said he had instructed the region's information and press minister to begin meeting with experts and representatives of public organizations to research the name change, Interfax and RIA-Novosti reported.

Chechnya has a negative color, evokes negative feelings and has no legal grounds, Alkhanov was quoted as saying.

"The Chechens and peoples of other ethnic origins who live in Chechnya, never call their republic this way," Alkhanov said, according to Interfax. "The Republic of Nokhchiin is an option."

"This is the way Chechens called their republic previously. I think it would be reasonable to give this name sole legitimate status," he was quoted as saying by RIA-Novosti. *AP*

Mao casts spell over China 30 years after death

By Verna Yu

BEIJING—China's Mao Zedong, responsible for the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution that brought bloodshed and hardship to millions, still has a strong hold over the lives of ordinary Chinese, analysts say.

Although Chinese today enjoy unprecedented levels of freedom, their communist leaders strictly adhere to the one-party political system enforced by Mao who died 30 years ago on Sept. 9.

"Mao's legacy is still playing a controlling role in present-day China... Chinese people are still living under his shadow," said Xu Youyu, a philosophy professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

More than two decades of reforms have transformed China into a modern economic powerhouse, but analysts say its leaders still look to Mao for inspiration on how the country should be ruled.

China remains an authoritarian state with limited political and press freedoms. Dissidents, lawyers and journalists are commonly jailed and harassed for daring to speak out. And people who try to lobby the government over injustices are often arbitrarily detained.

PEOPLE pay their respects to Chairman Mao following his death on Sept. 9, 1976. Although Chinese nowadays enjoy unprecedented levels of freedom, their communist leaders strictly adhere to the one-party political system enforced by Mao.

AFP

"Now people have more freedom than during Mao's time but only as long as they are not challenging the one-party rule," Xu said.

"No expression of opinion can go against this one-party political system." Independent labor unions, religious or other interest groups without government links are also not allowed.

Yet many Chinese still perceive Mao as the "great helmsman" who freed his people from the shackles of poverty and foreign occupation associated with the feudalist era, despite his many mistakes that brought years of chaos to China.

During the disastrous "Great Leap Forward" movement launched in 1958 aimed at quickly transforming China into an industrial society, an estimated 30 million people starved to death.

The later Cultural Revolution now acknowledged by Beijing as "10 years of catastrophe" killed between one and two million people in the mass movement's ostensible bid for a classless society, according to scholars' estimates.

This hasn't taken into account numerous faithful party cadres and intellectuals who were purged as "capitalist roaders" or "anti-revolutionaries," among whom many were hounded to death during political movements.

"They (the leaders) are still using Mao's class struggle method to attack rights activists and lawyers—his shadow lingers on," said Gao Yu, a veteran journalist jailed for seven years for writing about sensitive political issues.

Today, the Chinese who are still nostalgic about the Mao era are mainly those hardest hit by a widening gap between rich and poor in the market-oriented country, analysts say.

"The powerless people feel nostalgic towards those nice-sounding slogans during the Cultural Revolution and they idealized Mao as a way of protesting against the reality," said Xu, who hero-worshipped Mao as a teenager.

China's leaders today forbid criticism of Mao's legacy, fearing public debate will lead to scrutiny of the current regime and threaten its survival, analysts say.

"They are holding onto Mao's corpse and no one is allowed to speak freely about him... otherwise it would be the end (of the regime)," Gao said.

Mao's myth continues to be propagated to legitimize the sovereignty of the regime, said Wu Guoguang, a former aide of late reformist leader Zhao Ziyang. *AFP*

Top insurgent leader in Iraq captured

AL-SAEEDI AFP

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—AMERICAN AND IRAQI troops have captured the man who supervised the bombers of a revered Shiite shrine in Samarra last February, an act that set off a wave of brutal sectarian violence, the Iraqi national security adviser, Mouwafak al-Rubaie, said Sunday.

In a statement broadcast on national television, al-Rubaie said the second-ranking leader of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, Hamid Juma Faris Jouri al-Saeedi, was captured several days ago as he hid among Iraqi families in a residential building. He said that al-Saeedi was operating near Baquba, north of Baghdad, in the area where Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born leader of the terror organization, had sought refuge before he was killed in an American airstrike three months ago.

Al-Rubaie described al-Saeedi as al-Qaida's deputy commander in Iraq, serving beneath Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who took over the organization after al-Zarqawi's death. If that characterization is true, it would suggest al-Saeedi is the most senior al-Qaida in Mesopotamia leader killed or captured since an American F-16 fighter bombed al-Zarqawi's safe house on June 7.

However, a US military official was more cautious in describing al-Saeedi's place in the organization's pecking order. While he was a "top-tier guy" who supervised those who carried out the Samarra bombing, "I'm not sure we are ready to put a number on him," said the American official, who agreed to speak only without being named because Iraqi officials had been designated to announce the capture. "It's a very decentralized operation."

The news came as the US military reported the deaths of four servicemen. Two Marines were killed in attacks on Friday and Sunday in Anbar province, the military said, and two soldiers were killed Sunday morning when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in eastern Baghdad.

After his arrest, al-Saeedi gave interrogators information that has led to the arrest or killing of 20 al-Qaida operatives, al-Rubaie said.

Despite the high-profile killing of al-Zarqawi and other operations against al-Qaida, sectarian attacks have soared in recent months.

Even the Pentagon acknowledged last week that Iraqi casualties have risen by more than 50 percent in recent months and that the Baghdad coroner's office reported that nine out of every 10 bodies it took in during July—more than 1,800 in total—were thought to be victims of executions *NYT*

Birthrates in Europe reach a historic low

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBlic—Pushing their newborns in strollers along Na Prikope, Prague's main shopping street, Jelena Heitmankova and her two friends get emotional as they describe their desire for more children. But, although they're only nearing 30, they know their broods will probably end with the one child each has now.

"Having children here is expensive, and there is no structure: no services, no baby-sitting," said Heitmankova, who is on maternity leave. "It would be nice if there were still nurseries, like when I was a child," she said, referring to free communist-era child care.

After a long decline, birthrates in European countries have reached a historic low, as potential parents increasingly opt for few or no children. European women, better educated and integrated into the labor market than ever before, say there is no time for motherhood and that children are too expensive anyway.

The result is a continent of lopsided societies where the number of elderly increasingly exceeds the number of young—a demographic pattern that strains pension plans and depletes the work force.

The free fall in births is most recent and precipitous here in Eastern Europe, where communist-era state incentives that made it economical to have children—from free apartments to subsidized child care—have been phased out while costs have skyrocketed.

The result is birthrates that are the lowest in the world. European Union statistics put the rate at 1.2 children per woman in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Latvia and Poland, far below the rate of 2.1 needed to maintain population. *NYT*

Historian was privy to D-Day, papers show

LONDON—BRITISH MILITARY historian Basil Liddell Hart obtained details of secret Allied plans for the D-Day invasion and shared them with acquaintances including a newspaper publisher, according to documents released Monday by the National Archives.

The leak, which became known three months before the invasion in June 1944, infuriated Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who wanted to have Liddell Hart charged with a crime, the documents revealed.

Liddell Hart wrote a paper critical of the plans for Operation Overlord, the codename for the invasion of Normandy, and showed it to Duncan Sandys, a government minister who was also Churchill's son-in-law.

Liddell Hart also gave copies of his paper to Labour Party politician Sir Stafford Cripps, three U.S. generals and Lord Beaverbrook, publisher of the Daily Express and wartime minister of aircraft production. *AP*

COME WITH ME IN MY GONDOLA
Venetians dressed in historical costumes row down the Grand Canal led by the famous Bucintoro boat, Sept. 3.
On the first Sunday of every September, hundreds of people pile into the long boats that have plied the city's canals for centuries for the "Regata Storica." AFP

Pollution forces HK to raise expats' pay

HONG KONG—MORE THAN half of Hong Kong-based companies have been forced to improve their offers to expatriates put off by rising pollution, a new survey said Monday.

Some 52 percent of the 274 senior executives polled said they have had to enhance the benefits offered to expats to persuade them to move to Hong Kong, the survey by Hudson human resources consultancy found.

A third of firms had to offer a "much higher" salary package and 16 percent gave bigger housing allowances, the survey found.

"Many companies in Hong Kong, Singapore and to a lesser extent Japan are competing for the same expatriate talent," a spokesman for Hudson said in a statement.

"If pollution is a hindrance in Hong Kong, this will amplify the talent shortage and will mean that Hong Kong is competing at a disadvantage." The survey came after recent calls from members of the British, Canadian, Australian and Japanese chambers of commerce in Hong Kong urging the government to act against rising pollution or risk losing the city's international status.

Expats are also leaving the territory because of the poor air quality. 44 per cent of respondents cited it as a contributing factor in why employees moved elsewhere.

Singapore is a preferred location for foreign workers with a third choosing to relocate there and 21 percent to Australia.

Pollution has become a hot political issue in Hong Kong as smog levels have risen to often dangerous levels. Poor air quality reduced visibility to less than one kilometer (about half a mile) on more than 50 days last year.

While the problem is mostly due to factories across southern China's Pearl River Delta region, local coal-burning power stations and diesel-powered buses are also major contributors.

The Hong Kong government recently launched an "Action Blue Sky" campaign to persuade citizens to cut down on air conditioner use and slash energy consumption. *AFP*

Evolution, not just gluttony, led to obesity pandemic

SYDNEY—EVOLUTION AND the environment, not just gluttony, has led to a global obesity pandemic, with an estimated 1.5 billion people overweight—more than the number of undernourished people—an obesity conference was told on Monday.

The mounting epidemic of obesity in children would see many die before their parents, said Kate Steinbeck, co-chair of the 10th International Congress on Obesity in Sydney.

"This is the first generation in history where children may die before their parents," Steinbeck told the conference.

Obesity had become an "insidious killer and the major contributing cause of preventable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease," said conference co-chair Paul Zimmet.

"It is a disease with disastrous health, social and economic consequences," Zimmet told the conference.

Steinbeck said fighting obesity was not simply a matter of people eating less and exercising more, but discovering environmental and genetic contributors to obesity.

"We know this is not about gluttony—it is the interaction of heredity and environment," said Steinbeck.

New obesity research has found that too little sleep and fats from fast food can alter a person's biology, making them more susceptible to overeating and less active, said the International Association for the Study of Obesity.

"Research on obesity should be given top priority to have any hope of combating the global pandemic," said Arne Vernon, president of the association.

Vernon said millions of obese people were being discriminated against and stigmatized, and often denied access to medical services.

"A growing proportion of morbidly obese people are at the extreme end of the spectrum but are stigmatized and ignored," he said.

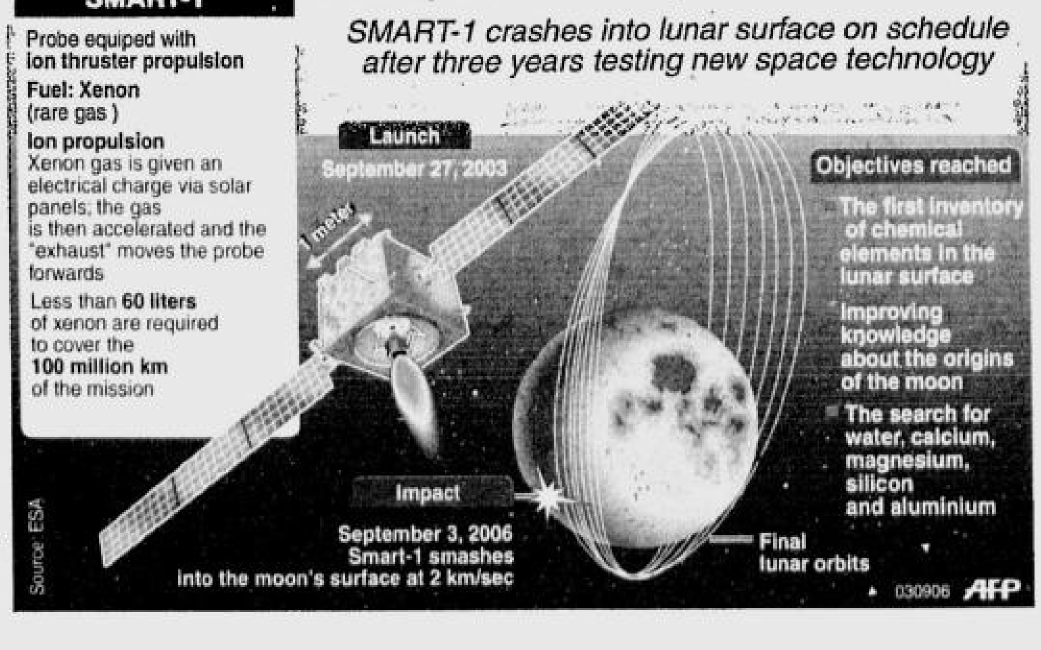
Dietary supplements and alternative treatments promising weight loss have minimal or no effect because they cannot match evolutionary influences that cause the body to conserve energy in times of famine, Dr. Anne-Thea McGill told the conference.

McGill said humans were designed to maximize their energy intake because their large brains used about one-quarter of their total energy expenditure. *Reuters*

Europe probe smashes into Moon after mission

Europe's moon probe success

SMART-1 crashes into lunar surface on schedule after three years testing new space technology



SMART-1
Probe equiped with
Ion thruster propulsion
Fuel: Xenon
(rare gas)
Ion propulsion
Xenon gas is given an electrical charge via solar panels; the gas is then accelerated and the "exhaust" moves the probe forwards
Less than 60 liters of xenon are required to cover the 100 million km of the mission
Launch
September 27, 2003
1 meter
Objectives reached
The first inventory of chemical elements in the lunar surface
Improving knowledge about the origins of the moon
The search for water, calcium, magnesium, silicon and aluminium
Impact
September 3, 2006
Smart-1 smashes into the moon's surface at 2 km/sec
Final lunar orbits
Source ESA
030906 AFP

PARIS—ONE OF THE MOST innovative missions in space exploration came to a dramatic close on Sunday as Europe's first probe to the Moon crashed into the lunar surface giving stargazers around the world an astronomical fireworks display.

The European Space Agency's (Esa) revolutionary probe known as Smart-1 smashed into a plain called the Lake of Excellence on the southwestern side of the Moon's face, "producing a more intense flash than expected," the mission's chief scientist Bernard Foing said from Esa's base in Darmstadt, Germany.

Over the past three years, operating with a full-time staff of just seven and a total budget of just 120 million euros ($151 million), the little probe has been patiently testing new technology that one day could help put man on Mars.

Scientists also say that the 20,000 extremely detailed photos transmitted by the craft will yield a fresh look at the Moon, revealing Earth's satellite as a place of surprising complexity and promise rather than a lifeless rock with little to offer except grey dust.

"Smart-1 is the vanguard" of future space missions, said the craft's operations manager, Octavio Camino-Ramos. "Almost everything on board was innovative. It was a mission to test technology, the science was an extra plus."

A revolutionary ion thruster engine has propelled the cube, which measured just 1 m across and weighed in at a paltry 350 kg since it was launched in September 2003. *AFP*

KFC Tortures Animals

NO KFC ADMIRER
Ashley Fruno, a member of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, protests KFC's alleged cruel treatment of chickens in front of a Bangkok Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. AP

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ Coach Pido proves his worth at the Tigers' helm /A22

▩ Tigresses repeat over Lady Eagles /A22

▩ Tearful farewell for jaded Agassi at US Open /A23

▩ Comeback queen Sorenstam wins anew /A23

Reyes, six other Filipinos sweep IPT group matches

MARLON Manalo still in razor-sharp form

EFREN "Bata" Reyes (in file photo) opens slowly but gives up only three of 24 racks in his last three matches.

BILLIARDS HALL OF Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes led six other Filipinos to resounding group sweeps Sunday and advanced to the next round of the rich International Pool Tour's World 8-Ball Open at the Grand Sierra Casino and Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

The 52-year-old Reyes won all his four assignments in Group 4—a feat matched in their respective brackets by Warren Kiamko, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Dennis Orcollo, Marlon Manalo and Ronato Alcano.

But it was Kiamco who provided the biggest match win among the highly regarded Filipinos with a stunning 8-3 rout of North American 8-ball winner Thorsten Hohmann of Germany in Group 1.

Hohmann wound up with a 1-3 win-loss record and failed to progress to the next round.

Last-minute replacement Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat (3-1), Jose "Amang" Parica (2-2) and Antonio Lining (2-2) also advanced to the second round of this $3-million tournament that dangles a whopping $500,000 champion's prize.

Luat, who failed to survive a qualifying event earlier, was tapped to replace an ailing Ronnie O'Sullivan of Britain.

The starting field of 200 were bracketed into 40 groups of five players each with the top three after a single round moving on to the next level. Each match is race to eight.

Reyes, fresh off his World Cup of Pool victory in tandem with Bustamante in Britain last week, opened slowly with an 8-4 decision of American Mike Lebron.

But once he got into the groove, the man his peers fondly call "The Magician" rolled to an 8-0 win over another American, Lee Heuwagen, before routing Germany's Oezer Bulunmaz, 8-1, and Switzerland's Gerda Hofstatter, 8-2.

Bustamante topped Group 12 by besting Americans Michael Davis, 8-5, and Wade Crane, 8-4, Roman Hybler, 8-2, and John Wims, 8-4.

Reyes and Bustamante divided the $60,000 champion's purse in the World Cup of Pool and are both expected to figure prominently in the money in this, the world's richest ever pool tournament.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World Pool champ and recent winner of the BSCP National Championship, swept Group 13 with victories over Americans Jon Kucharo, 8-6, Charles Bryant, 8-4, and Frank Alvarez, 8-1, and Germany's Kevin Becker, 8-6.

In the second round, Filipinos start competing against each other as Kiamco joins Manalo in Group 41, Orcollo and Reyes compete in Group 42, Alcano and Bustamante vie in Group 46, and Pagulayan and Parica test each other in Group 47.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

falling hair?
The Solution:
Mane 'n Tail
New with 33% more value FREE at the same price
PRODUCT OF THE U.S.A

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
Auction Dates:
Sept. 25 - 28, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
Inspection Dates:
Sept. 21 - 24, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
1 of 15 Bulldozers
CAT D6D Bulldozer
1 of 60 Excavators
1 of 30 Wheel Loaders
TCM 75B Wheel Loader
1 of 10 Road Rollers
1 of 50 Dump Trucks
1 of 180 Closed Vans
1 of 50 Dump Trucks
ISUZU 10W Dump Truck, Giga Type, Late Model
1 of 110 Dropside Cargos
1 of 110 Dropside Cargos
1 of 110 Dropside Cargos
ISUZU 10W Alum. Dropside, Late Model 6-Cyl. Turbo Diesel
1 of 180 Closed Vans
MITSUBISHI FD60, 6T View Mast Forklift, Long Fork, Side Shift
(Former Tatan compound)
Km 19 East Service Rd.
North Luzon Expressway,
Lawang Bato, Valenzuela city
For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16
Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888
Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

If You Think You Won't Experience Hairloss – Think Again.

Women can suffer from hairloss. Warning signs may strike at any age. If left untreated, thinning hair can worsen, leaving less than depressing results. Stop ignoring excessive hair fall and hair thinning. At the first sign of hairloss, get the Svenson Solution – the **Hair Reinforcer Ultra Remedy.** It's proven effective in stopping the main cause of hairloss in women and protects hair against excessive shedding. It stimulates faster re-growth, strengthens brittle strands and promotes healthier scalp conditions, bringing back your hair's natural lush look.

Stop hairloss now before it's too late. Call Svenson now for a free consultation.

WOMEN AT
Svenson
End Your Hairloss Misery Today

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

Dimakiling, 2 others lead Asiad qualifying

THA
PR
TOK
HI
K.
MIT
K
BUA
HID

NELSON MARIANO: In the hunt for an Asian Games berth.

A RASH OF DRAWS AND UPSETS shook the standings yesterday, leaving International Master Oliver Dimakiling and two other campaigners sharing top spot after four rounds of the qualifying tournament for the Doha Asian Games at the Southside of the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Showing the form that gave him second place in the recent Merdeka Chess Open in Malaysia, Dimakiling beat Christopher Rodriguez even as national junior champion and 5th seed NM John Paul Gomez stopped the giant-killing run of No. 24 seed Jose Aquino Jr.

It was No. 57 Nelson Villanueva, however, who caused the biggest stir so far in the tournament when he trounced IM and former Olympian Barlo Nadera to keep pace with Dimakiling and Gomez with perfect four points each.

IM Ronald Dableo, the No. 2 seed, fellow IM Darwin Laylo and NM Rolando Nolte were forced into draws to drop into a share of second spot at 3.5 with 13 other bidders.

Dableo split the point with No. 21 NM Adrian Pacis, while Laylo agreed to a truce with Cebuano IM Richard Bitoon in the top two boards. Nolte was likewise dragged to a draw by 34th seed Raymond Salcedo.

Also at 3.5 were No. 66 Jason Salubre, who drew with IM Yves Rañola and 4th-round winners IM Jayson Gonzales, No. 17 NM Arlan Cabe, NM Mirabeau Maga, IM Ronald Bancod, Rhobel Legaspi and Rolando Andador.

Rañola, meanwhile, slid into a big group of three-pointers who include Jerry Nodado, Ric Portogalera, Ali Branzuela, GM Nelson Mariano II, IM Chito Garma, Dino Ballecer, Roland Joseph Perez, Odillon Badilles, NM Efren Bagamasbad and Marc Christian Nazario.

The 11-round Swiss Syestem tournament is being held by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines to determine the three players (two males and one female) who'll carry the country's colors in the quadrennial Games in December.

Coach Pido proves his worth at the Tigers' helm

THE FATE OF THE SANTO TOMAS TIGERS MAY NO LONGER BE IN HIS HANDS, but coach Pido Jarencio still feels satisfied with his maiden run in the UAAP basketball tournament.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	9	1
Univ of East	7	4
Santo Tomas	6	6
Adamson	5	6
Far Eastern	5	6
Univ of Phils	4	8
National	3	8

GAMES THURSDAY
(*PhilSports Arena*)
2 p.m.—National U vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Ateneo (Srs)

"Six wins is good, double from the 3-11 (record) last year," said Jarencio, after the Tigers secured at least a playoff for the fourth and last semifinal spot with a hard-earned 77-74 decision of the Adamson Falcons, 77-74, on Sunday.

The win evened the Tigers' slate at 6-6.

"We're just waiting," said Jarencio, the former Ginebra guard in the PBA and one of UST's finest basketball alumni. "If there's a playoff, it's okay. If we enter the Final Four right away, then thank you."

Toting similar 5-6 cards, the Falcons and the Far Eastern Tamaraws remain in contention for the last two semifinal slots.

But the defending champion Tamaraws are in for a tough assignment against the top-ranked Ateneo Eagles on Thursday while the Falcons face an easier job against the National Bulldogs.

"It's good that we got a 10-day break—we're able to prepare longer," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "But what we've been looking for in this team is the desire to win."

While the Tamaraws struggle to remain on track in their title-defense, the Eagles and the University of the East Warriors have already claimed the twice-to-beat incentives in the Final Four.

A three-way tie at 6-6 remains a possibility if the Tamaraws and the Falcons prevail in their last games.

In such an event, the team with the highest quotient will automatically claim the third spot. The remaining two teams will knock each other out for the last semifinal berth on Sept. 14.

Adamson is vying for its first Final Four appearance since the format was introduced in 1994.

Santo Tomas, meanwhile, is trying to reclaim lost glory—its last semifinal stint came in 2002.

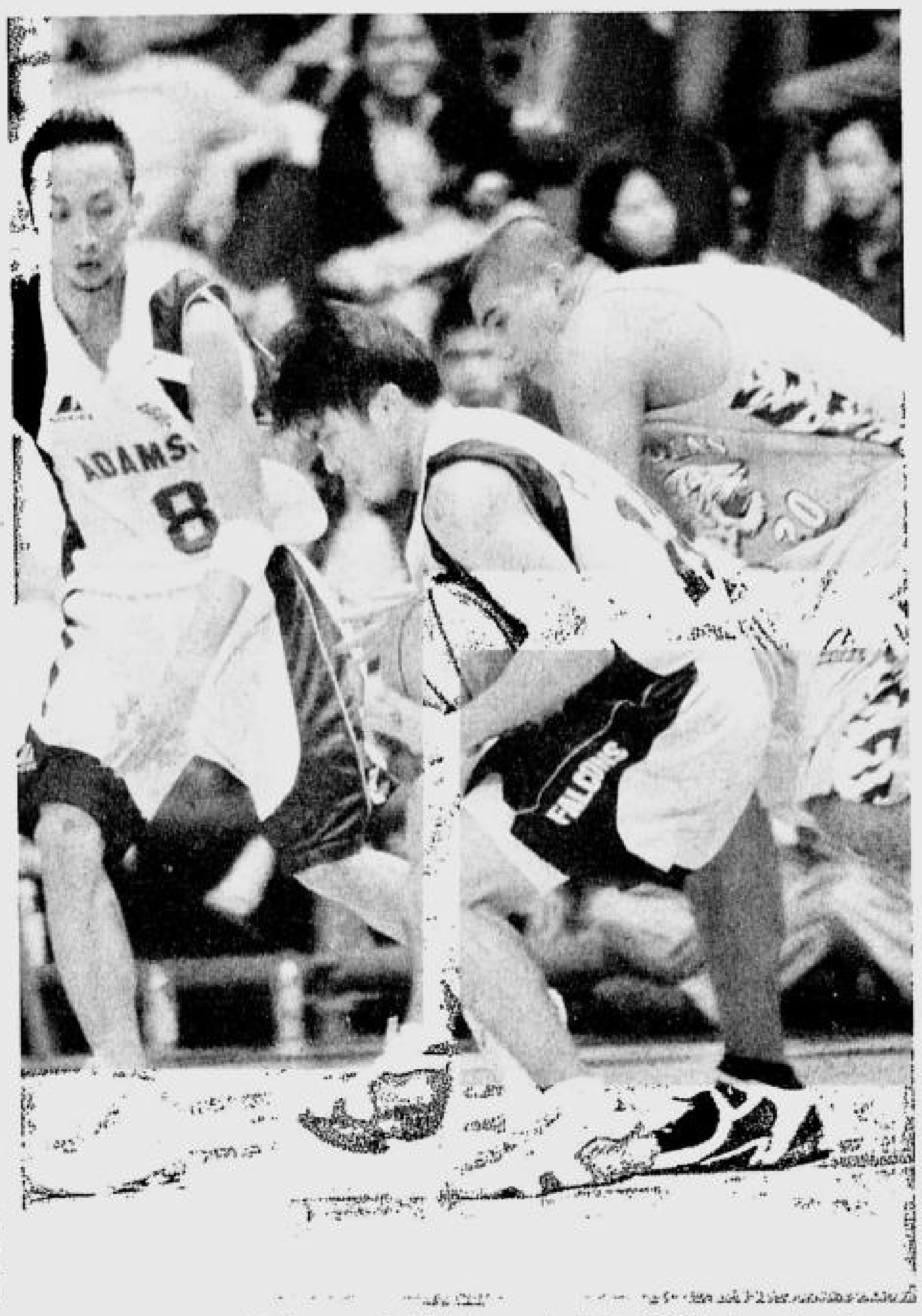
Although tagged as the most inconsistent among the three jostling squads, the Tigers aren't worried.

"We've never been overconfident, it was just the breaks of the game," said Jarencio, alluding to the Tigers' heartbreaking 70-67 loss to the cellar-dwelling University of the Philippines, two days after stunning Ateneo in overtime, 88-80.

The victory snapped Ateneo's eight-game winning streak.

The Maroons went on to finish their schedule with an ego-boosting 90-85 victory over the Warriors on Sunday.

Jasmine W. Payo



ADAMSON'S Marvin Poloyapoy (middle) gets the ball off UST's Jervy Cruz in their game Sunday.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Bacaro keys Tigresses' repeat over Lady Eagles

STANDINGS	W	L
Far Eastern	9	2
Ateneo	8	3
Santo Tomas	8	3
Adamson	6	5
Univ of Phils	6	5
Univ of East	2	9
National	1	12

SANTO TOMAS conquered Ateneo again with the 60-51 victory by the Tigresses Sunday, raising a question mark on the Lady Eagles' capability to retain the UAAP women's basketball crown.

Marichu Bacaro exploded for 26 points in 36 minutes of play for the Tigresses who earned a seat in the semifinals by tying the Lady Eagles for second place at 8-3.

Far Eastern remained on top by downing former champion Adamson, 46-38, at the Blue Eagle gym in Loyola Heights, to raise its record to nine wins against two losses.

The Lady Falcons dropped to 6-5 and found the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons breathing hard on their necks as the Diliman cagers improved to 5-6 record after a 101-51 rout of the National Lady Bulldogs.

The Lady Eagles, 59-62 losers to the Lady Tamaraws a week ago, were limited to only 14 points in the second quarter by the Tigresses, who beat them, 69-57, in the first round.

In chess, UE moved closer to retaining the juniors crown and Santo Tomas also appeared headed for a repeat in the women's contest.

UE, behind the brilliant play of Nelson Mariano III, routed Adamson (3-1) and Ateneo (3.5-.5) over the weekend to pad its lead over its closer pursuer with 28.5 points out of a possible 32.0.

Sherily Cua led the Tigresses to a 3-1 rout of National Saturday and a 4-0 shutout of UE Sunday for 24.5 points, 6.5 points ahead of second-running Far Eastern.

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP cock weigh-in today

THE WEIGHTS OF ENTRIES VYING IN THE 5-STAG derby of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 pm. at the San Juan Coliseum. More than 70 first class fights will be unleashed in tomorrow's battles among GCAP members and guest participants in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Other GCAP derbies are lined up on Sept. 20 and 27; Oct. 11, 18 and 25. Meanwhile, the SJC 1st Anniversary 6-stag derby unwraps on Sept. 11 and 13, with more than 100 entries competing for a prize pot of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P15,000. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

Malvar 5-stag derby begins

THE FIRST OUT-OF-TOWN STAG DERBY OF THE Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) for the year kicks off at the Malvar Sports Complex in Malvar, Batangas, at 2 p.m. today via a 5-stag program featuring 100 fights. Sponsored by Asvet, Lapkue Drug Inc., Thunderbird, Purina, Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace, the derby is part of the LGBA stag series which opened at the Araneta Coliseum last Aug. 29 and 31, according to the group's president, Rene "Boy" Diaz. For inquiries, call the LGBA office at 926-7808 and 924-5072.

'Ray Showdown' Rd. 2 is on

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE "RAY SHOWDOWN" 6-stag derby gets going at 3 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 90 fights on tap. The opening round last Saturday of the derby, sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, was dominated by two entries with perfect scores of three points—Triple-J of Mayor Boy Austria and Pink Panther of Ronnie Ong and Rey Acop. "Afficionados can again expect well-balanced fights from start to finish," said hosts Danny Ty and Romero Yu. The championship round blasts off on Thursday. Participants who will field straight six stags on Thursday. For inquiries, call 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (1), Kalashnikov (2), D'Minnow's (3), Red Anya (6)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Fancy (7), Goldshere (2), Khowak (1), Cludness (4), Mr. Quickie (8)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Empire Lady (11), King Hasn (2), Awesome Power (13), Wild Orphan (10), Fine Offer (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—El Love Semora (7), West N Wild (1), Queen's Gold (5), Yao Man (6)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Capricorn Aida (3), Desert Breeze (2), Fair Urduja (9), Priouette (11)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sa Wakas (9), ST. Germain (1), Prince Valiant (8), Don Ramon (5), He's A Balong (4), Aya's Dream (10)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Democrat/Words Of Joy (1), Chicklet (5), Remus (2), My Rabbonnie (6), Golden lance (8)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Bumpy Johnson (12), Open Sky (1), Tiger Raffy (2), Paminsanminsan (3), Money Man (6), Showtime Lady (5)

Jaguars end losing spell, rip Sea Lions

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*La Salle-Dasmarinas gym*)
10 a.m.—ACSAT vs St. Francis
11:30 a.m.—Olivarez College vs EAC
1:30 p.m.—PSBA vs La Salle-Dasmarinas

THE PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration Jaguars leaned on the big games of their three mainstays to whip the Olivarez College Sea Lions, 87-73, yesterday in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the San Andres gym.

Lester Mendoza, Dan Abella and TJ Zayas scored in double figures as the Jaguars finally broke into the win column in their seventh game, which was also their first in the second round.

Mendoza showed the way with 23 points, Abella fired 22 and Zayas contributed 20 for the Jaguars of coach Philip Cezar.

Mendoza's layup on a Mark Lozada assist in the final period handed the Jaguars a 77-67 edge with 3:32 remaining before Abella put PSBA farther ahead with a drive.

Zayas led the Jaguars' big 8-0 breakaway from a 58-58 tie with a pair of triples.

The Jaguars will try to score a second straight win when they meet the La Salle-Dasmarinas Patriots at 1:30 p.m. at the DLSU-D courts tomorrow.

Asian College of Science and Technology takes on St. Francis at 10 a.m. while defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College battles Olivarez College at 11:30 a.m.

BC
BASKETBALL CONFERENCE

NEWEST NBC TEAM: National Basketball Conference (NBC) president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (fourth from left) welcomes former senator John Osmeña, who has joined the association's second conference by fielding his Cebu-Osmeña team. With them are (from left) Cebu-Osmeña team manager Carlos Sario, Pagadian City Mayor Sammy Co and NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino. The NBC second conference is slated to kickoff on Sept. 16.

De Guzman keys New Era rout of 5-time champ UM

NEW ERA BREATHED LIFE INTO ITS FADING campaign after fashioning out a 96-83 rout of five-time defending champion University of Manila yesterday in the second round of eliminations of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the CEU Gym.

Jeff de Guzman scattered 31 points, 19 of them in the first half, which the Hunters took at 54-33, en route to their eighth win in 14 games.

UM gunner Onofre Napiza was held to just eight points even as three other Hunters scored in double digures to deal the Hawks' their sixth defeat in 12 outings.

Joseph Perlas had 17 points, William Ibay chipped in 15 and Mel Alastre added 10 for New Era which is hoping to improve on its third-place finish last season.

Marc Anthony Reyes

The scores:

NEW ERA 96—De Guzman 31, Perlas 17, Ibay 15, Alastre 10, Naguit 9, Maynes 4, Capistrano 4, Lapid 2, Mabigat 0, Billones 0.

UM 83—Maliksi 18, Santiago 16, Bonus 15, Delostrinos 14, Napiza 8, Facun 4, Gobis 3, Advincula 3, Assuncion 2, Estacio 0, Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 29-15, 54-33, 75-51, 96-83

College stars capture top tablenet titles

COLLEGIATE STANDOUTS DOMINATED THE age group competition of the 1st Inter-Corporate Table Tennis Championship over the weekend at the Club Six Fifty in Libis, Quezon City.

Champ Nanaman of University of the Philippines-Diliman captured the boys' 17-year and under title over Nico Cruz of St. Martin Montessori while Beverly Villar of University of the East-Serrano beat Chaimaine De Jesus of Ateneo to clinch the girls' title in the same category.

Other winners were Patrick Patrick Flores of University of the East-Serrano in the boy's 12-year and under class and Joma Sibal of St. Martin Montessori in the girls' class.

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on Sept. 26, 2006 · STARTS AT 8:30A.M. SHARP ·

Tearful farewell for hurting Agassi

NEW YORK—A CAREER FOR THE AGES CAME TO A CLOSE WHEN A WORN down and wincing Andre Agassi lost to 112th-ranked Benjamin Becker, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, in the third round at the US Open on Sunday.

Betrayed by a creaky body that needed four injections this week, Agassi's spirit never waned.

"For me, it was never about winning and stopping," he said. "It was about getting the most out of myself for as long as possible," he said.

Agassi announced this summer that his 21st consecutive US Open would be his final event. It seemed unimaginable that he could win seven matches to take the title, but after two inspiring victories, fans began to hope and wonder.

Instead, the end came with Agassi looking like what he'd become—a 36-year-old man with a bad back, ready for retirement.

"I just credit the doctors that I was able to play out there today," he said. "I didn't expect a whole lot physically. And sure enough, it was real early when I wasn't feeling so good."

The 25-year-old Becker started strong, showing few nerves, and closed out the match with a 133 mph (214 kph) ace.

Moments later, Agassi teared up on the blue court as he addressed a crowd that showed up early at Arthur Ashe Stadium and tried to spur him all afternoon.

"The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what it is I've found," Agassi said, his voice cracking with emotion. "Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. You have pulled for me on the court and also in life. I have found inspiration. You have willed me to succeed sometimes even in my lowest moments."

German qualifier Becker applauded as Agassi spoke. Agassi's wife, Steffi Graf, and their two children looked on.

Becker joined the crowd for a four-minute, loud standing ovation saluting Agassi, who stared out at the crowd from his chair, wiping tears from his eyes.

Becker advanced to play 2003 US Open champ Andy Roddick, who defeated Fernando Verdasco of Spain, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-2.

Elsewhere, two-time defending champion Roger Federer dumped Vince Spadea of the US, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0, and next meets Marc Gicquel of France, who ousted 2004 French Open titlist Gaston Gaudio, 6-0, 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

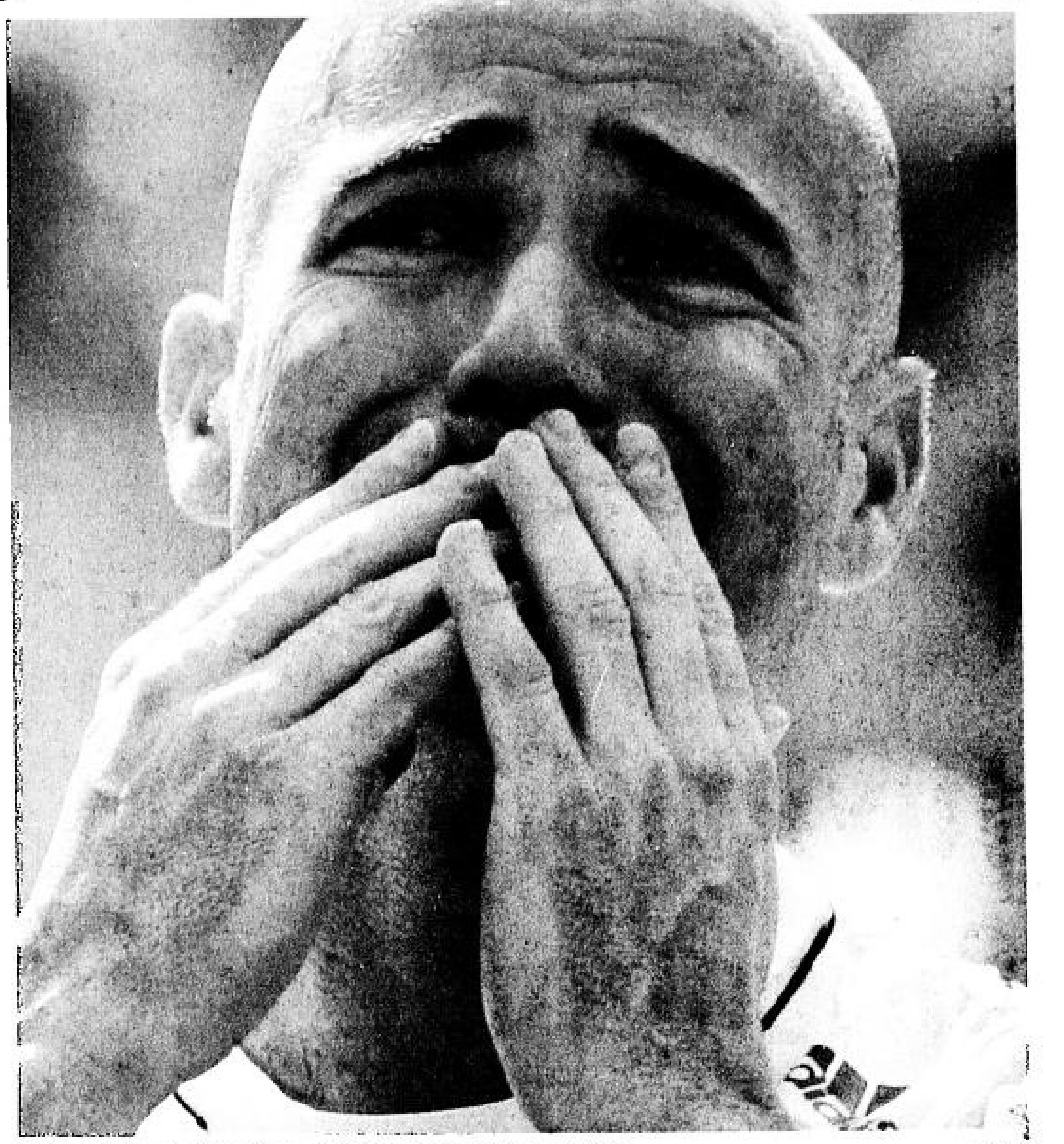
Marat Safin—the 2000 Open champion who's unseeded this year—knocked off fourth-seeded David Nalbandian, 6-3, 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 7-6 (6), in a second-round match.

In third-round action, unseeded two-time Open champion Serena Williams beat No. 16 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia, 6-2, 6-4, to set up a showdown on Monday against No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, and 1998 champ Lindsay Davenport bested Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Li Na of China upset 2005 runner-up Mary Pierce, 4-6, 6-0, 6-0, advancing to a fourth-round match against No. 3 Maria Sharapova, who dispatched fellow Russian Elena Likhovtseva, 6-3, 6-2.

France's Tatiana Golovin ousted fifth-seeded Nadia Petrova, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3, her third straight win over the Russian.

On the men's side, second-seeded Rafael Nadal reached the Open's fourth round for the first time, and others to advance included 2001 Open champion Lleyton Hewitt, fifth-seeded James Blake and British teen Andy Murray. *AP*


ANDRE Agassi: Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. REUTERS

The rebel ended up a ruler

AGASSI in his prime

NEW YORK—WHAT BEGAN AS A RIOT of hairlocks, flash colors and cut-off denims in 1986 ended here 20 years later on Sunday with a bald head, all-whites and a bad back.

Andre Agassi's career in tennis finished with his four sets defeat at the hands of unsung German Benjamin Becker.

From rebel to regal, Andre Agassi experienced it all in an enthralling two-decades long career that at times transcended the sport.

He took tennis by storm when he first blasted on to the scene out of Las Vegas in 1986—a motley mix of rock-star hair, facial stubble, cut-off jeans and in-your-face attitude.

Image was everything was the Agassi slogan, but little did anyone know how much that image would metamorphose over the next 20 years.

Groomed for success by his father Mike, who represented Iran at boxing in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics before emigrating to the United States, Agassi enjoyed immediate success winning his first ATP tournament as a wild card in Mexico in 1987.

Along with great rival Pete Sampras, he soon supplanted the aging Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the figureheads of a golden generation of US Tennis stars.

Grand Slam success followed at Wimbledon in 1992, at the US Open two years later and in Australia the following year. He was ranked world No. 1 for 30 weeks from April 1995, the year he shaved his balding head and took Olympic gold at Atlanta in 1996. *AFP*

Eurostars glitter in int'l game as NBA aces fade

SAITAMA, JAPAN—SPAIN'S TRIUMPH OVER Greece in the world championship final has shown that the galaxy of the US National Basketball Association is not all that glitters in the international game. The Iberians, playing without top-scoring center Pau Gasol of the NBA Memphis Grizzlies due to injury, ran away to a 70-47 win here on Sunday over the European champions who had no NBA player on their roster.

European pride had already been ablaze after Greece shamed the US "Dream Team" of NBA stars, including Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony, in the semifinals, a feat widely attributed to a difference in styles.

The NBA emphasizes one-on-one play while rules of the international basketball association Fiba put a greater premium on teamwork and ball movement, allowing zone defense which is restricted in the professional US game.

But the premier professional organization embraces some 90 players from outside the United States and is still luring big names of the Euroleague, basketball's answer to the football European Champions League.

Jorge Garbajosa, a Unicaja Malaga power forward who scored a game-high 20 points in the final, will join his Spain teammate and point guard Jose Caledron at the Toronto Raptors.

Sergio Rodriguez, a 19-year-old Madrid guard, is bound for the Portland Trail Blazers after helping Spain, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist, to their first ever world championship podium.

Garbajosa, 29, said that Gasol and Rodriguez were his friends and that "To play against them in the best league in the world is going to be a very important moment."

Greece guard Vasilis Spanoulis of the Panathinaikos will join Chinese 226-centimeter (7 foot 5 inch) center Yao Ming at the Houston Rockets the next season.

Sofoklis Schortsianitis, a 2.06m Greek center nicknamed "Baby Shaq" after NBA superstar big man Shaquille O'Neal, is reportedly being sought after by the Cleveland Clippers. *AFP*

Sacramento nears crown

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—YOLANDA Griffith scored 15 points, Nicole Powell had 14 and the Sacramento Monarchs rolled to the brink of their second straight championship by beating the Detroit Shock, 89-69, in Game 3 of the WNBA finals on Sunday.

Erin Buescher and DeMya Walker had 11 points apiece for the Monarchs, who went ahead 2-1 in the best-of-five series with a near-flawless effort on both ends of the court.

Shaking off a fourth-quarter collapse in Game 2, Sacramento never trailed as eight Monarchs scored at least seven points. The defense forced 23 turnovers by the demoralized Shock, who couldn't avoid their third straight blowout loss in Arco Arena.

Game 4 is Wednesday at Arco, where the Monarchs have won 11 straight playoff games since 2001. They'll have the opportunity to duplicate the raucous championship celebration after last season's Game 4 against the Connecticut Sun.

Sacramento's reserves led a decisive 14-3 run to close the third quarter, doubling the Monarchs' lead to 22 points in 3½ minutes. Buescher punctuated that surge with an awkward, shot-clock-beating 3-pointer that sent her running up the court with her arms spread wide in celebration.

Sacramento kept rolling in the fourth quarter against the Shock, who got 22 points from Deanna Nolan but precious little from the rest of their vaunted starting lineup. *AP*

CAMILO Villegas of Colombia lines up his putt on the first green. REUTERS

Europe Ryder Cup: Clarke, Westwood captain's picks

MUNICH, GERMANY—DARREN CLARKE and Lee Westwood were chosen as captain's picks by Ian Woosnam Sunday and will play for Europe at the Ryder Cup.

Although Clarke missed this week's BMW International Open, he is soon to return to action after taking time off because of the death of his wife, Heather. He has entered the Madrid Masters, a European Tour event staged the week before the Ryder Cup.

The European team will defend the trophy against the United States at The K Club in Ireland from Sept. 22-24.

The rest of the European team includes Luke Donald, Sergio Garcia, Henrik Stenson, David Howell, Colin Montgomerie, Robert Karlsson, Paul Casey, Padraig Harrington, Paul McGinley and Jose Maria Olazabal.

"I am delighted that Ian Woosnam has shown faith in me and I will do everything I possibly can to repay him at The K Club where I have enjoyed the past," said Westwood, who has been battling tonsillitis. *AP*

Singh fires record 61, passes Woods

NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS—VIJAY Singh fired a course-record 10-under-par 61 here Sunday to seize the third-round lead in the $5.5 million Deutsche Bank Championship.

After opening the tournament with rounds of 70-71, Singh was five shots off the pace at the halfway stage.

But his sizzling effort in dampening conditions gave him an 11-under total of 202, and a three-shot lead over Tiger Woods and England's Justin Rose.

"It's all the hard work paying off, I was grinding so hard and was working on the right things, and it's so nice to see it pay off," Singh said. "Today everything just molded together and it was really fun doing it for a change. The ball was going where I was aiming and the putts were going in."

The putts were going in early and often for Singh, who managed the best round of his career despite a bogey at the par-four sixth.

Singh started birdie-eagle and had three more birdies on the front nine.

Singh kept the round going with consecutive birdies at 12 and 13, and he capped the round with three straight birdies to surpass the 62 he shot in the final round of the 1998 Buick Championship.

VIJAY SINGH: Hard work paying off. AFP

"I hit a lot of good shots and a lot of good iron shots and made a lot of putts," Singh said. "I wasn't expecting to shoot a 61 when I started today, but I just went out there and played hole by hole and each time I made a birdie I got even more calmer for the next hole.

"And I just had a great time out there. I hit a lot of great shots and just tried to play hole by hole and never look ahead."

In search of his fifth consecutive victory, Woods was three-under through seven. He birdied his first two holes an added another at the seventh. *AFP*

Decathlon legend Mathias dies, 75

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO—BOB Mathias, who won Olympic decathlon gold in 1948 and 1952 and went on to serve in the US legislature, has died at the age of 75, the US Olympic Committee confirmed.

"Bob Mathias was one of those rare individuals with the ability to inspire a nation through his determination and perseverance," USOC Chair Peter Ueberroth said in a statement.

"He was a champion in every aspect of life, and he embraced the values that make our country and the worldwide Olympic movement special.

"With his passing, the Olympic movement has lost a loyal friend, and America has lost a true hero."

Mathias became the youngest track and field goal medalist when he won the 10-discipline decathlon in London at 17. *AFP*

Comeback queen Sorenstam wins anew

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS—SWEDISH superstar Annika Sorenstam fired a 10-under 62 here Sunday to turn a five-shot deficit into a two-shot triumph in the $1.3 million State Farm Classic.

Sorenstam captured her third LPGA title of the season, her 19-under total of 269 putting her two shots in front of American Christie Kerr.

"To come from five behind and win by two, it's pretty amazing," Sorenstam said. "It's something that I'm going to remember for quite some time."

Sweden's Maria Hjorth, who started the day with a one-shot lead, ended up a further stroke adrift alongside South Koreans Seon-Hwa Lee and Il Mi Chung.

Sorenstam, who was playing in this event for the first time since a runner-up finish in 2001, wasted no time in launching her last-round comeback.

She birdied her first three holes and added another at the fifth. She cooled down with five straight pars before really turning up the heat on Hjorth and Kerr down the stretch.

"I got off to a really good start," Sorenstam said. "I just thought keep on going and it's going to happen." Sorenstam posted back-to-back birdies at 11 and 12 and again at the 14th and 15th.

With both Hjorth and Kerr hanging around, Sorenstam put an exclamation point on her spectacular round with another brace of birdies at 17 and 18.

SORENSTAM

"I got really hot on the back side," Sorenstam said. "To finish with four birdies on the last five, that will do it a lot of times. It was fun to do it on a Sunday when I needed it."

Her birdie at the last came from the fringe 20-feet behind the hole.

Sorenstam's putt found the heart of the hole and capped a stellar run of golf.

Kerr started the day two behind Hjorth, and said she couldn't be disappointed with an effort that included six birdies and one bogey. *AFP*

Filipino officials helping run Doha Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AT LEAST 15 FORMER PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMmission employees are among a group of RP sports officials hired to help organizers run some events of the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this December.

A PSC team, led by chair William "Butch" Ramirez, which visited the Asiad facilities last week, also learned that the kitchen staff at the Athletes Village also included some Filipino cooks in keeping with the need to provide all Asian cuisine to the athletes.

Commissioner Richie Garcia said athletes and officials will be housed in the Athletes Villages where three persons will occupy one room. The Village cafeteria will be open 24 hours.

He said some of the PSC employees here are on vacation leaves while others have recently resigned from the agency for a stint in Doha. He refused to identify the former PSC workers.

Garcia said the village will open to athletes only three days before the Dec. 1 Asiad opening. Athletes and officials may stay up to two days after the Dec. 15 closing ceremony.

Garcia said early arrival of some athletes, which was being requested by the equestrian team, may be accommodated but they will have to pay $60 a day per person.

"Transportation is not a problem because the venues are only a five-minute drive away," said Garcia. "The venues are all ready and they can easily hold the Games even next week."

Samsung schools golf fires off at Canlubang

THE SEVENTH SAMSUNG INTERSCHOLASTIC Golf Championship gets going today at the north course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna with the country's top junior golfers, led by newly crowned world age group champion Mia Legaspi, out to carry the fight for their respective schools.

Legaspi, winner of the girls' 7-8 years division in the Callaway Junior World championships recently, will be representing The Masters Academy which is one of the 18 schools seeing action in the three-day tourney backed chiefly by Samsung Electronics Philippines, Inc.

Also in focus is Miko Yee, who will be trying to win the overall individual title for the third straight year and power La Salle Greenhills to the boys' high school event to a similar 'three-peat'.

While La Salle is favored in the boys' competition, the Greenies will have their hands full battling Ateneo in the college and elementary divisions.

Veteran internationalists

Aside from Ateneo and the three branches of La Salle (Zobel, Greenhills and Taft), also competing are Academy of St. John, Beacon School, Brent International, Claret, Colegio de San Agustin, Maria Ausciliatrice, Miriam, Poveda, School of Tomorrow, Seton Home, St. Paul Pasig, The Masters Academy and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

On tap are the team and individual competitions with veteran internationalists like Marcel Puyat of Ateneo, Regine de Guzman and Sunshine Baraquiel of the School of Tomorrow, AR Ramos, Miggy Yee and Justin Dy of LSGH among those expected to figure well in the race.

The Interscholastic is co-sponsored by KZG, Custom Clubmakers, Sunbolt, C-Lium Fibre, Taylormade, Titleist, Microtel inn & Suites. Media partners are Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 RT while Sports Plus will air a special coverage of the competitions.

The field will be vying for team and individual awards in college, high school and elementary of the boys division and mixed college-high school and elementary of the girls category. The modified Stableford system of scoring will be used.

For inquiries, please contact the Professional Sports Management Group Inc. at Telefax: (632) 635-0010 or Fax 631-5768. Cellphone 0917-8121242.

Juvic joins rich Singapore Open

JUVIC PAGUNSAN, THE HOTTEST FILIPINO player on the Asian Tour, joins Frankie Miñoza and Angelo Que in the $3 million Barclays Singapore Open set Sept. 7-10 at the demanding par-71 course of the Sentosa Golf Club.

The lean but long-hitting rookie pro goes into the richest tournament in the region as No. 63 in the Asian Tour Order of Merit after placing in a tie for third at the Brunei Open and landing in a deadlock for 20th in the Malaysia Masters last Sunday.

Pagunsan, who easily hurdled the Asian Tour qualifying after giving the Philippines two gold medals in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, has earnings of $31,060 in eight tournaments so far.

Miñoza, who has concentrated on the Japanese Tour, and Que finished in the top 30 last year in a tie at 293 and are expected to be back along with a supercharged field headed by defending champion Adam Scoot of Australia.

Aside from Scott, also seeing action are South Africa's Ernie Els, former US Open champion Michael Campbell and European Ryder Cuppers Lee Westwood and Paul McGinley.

In a move to make the tournament, regarded as the "Major of Asia," a truly open competition it was agreed by the organisers and the Asian Tour to hold a qualifying event.

The overwhelming response from both professionals and low-handicap amateurs from as far away as North America and New Zealand resulted in qualifying being extended over two days.

Filipinos Luis Dacudao, Kevin Tayao and Mars Pucay joined but failed to survive yesterday's qualifying round while Tony Lascuña, Artemio Murakami and Cookie La'O bid for the remaining five qualifying spots today.

JUVIC Pagunsan, top Philippine hope along with Frankie Miñoza.

St. Scho, UA&P spikers barge into WNC semis

THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE WNCAA senior volleyball semifinals after St. Scholastica and University of Asia & the Pacific downed separate foes Sunday to finalize the top four rankings in the penultimate weekend of the elimination round at the RTU gym.

St. Scholastica bested San Beda-Alabang, 9-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-21, while UA&P stopped Philippine Women's University, 25-17, 25-21, 27-25, to post 4-2 records, beyond the reach of La Consolacion, which only has a 2-4 mark with only one playing day left in Group B.

World Citi Colleges occupies the top post at 6-0 after ripping La Consolacion, 25-15, 25-15, 25-18, while SBCA is in second spot at 5-1.

In Group A, Lyceum of the Philippines beat St. Benilde, 25-11, 25-5, 25-14, for a 5-0 card.

St. Francis of Assisi College and Rizal Technological University are tied at 4-1 after defeating Miriam College, 25-16, 25-16, 25-23, and AMA Computer University, 25-20, 27-25, 25-11, respectively.

AMA has a lock on the fourth slot.

INDONESIA OPEN

RP lady golfers get going

THE CREAM AND FUTURE OF PHILIPPINE ladies golf look forward to an explosive campaign starting today in the Indonesia Women's Open at the Pondok Indah Golf Club in Jakarta.

Led by Junior World champions Dottie Ardina and Cyna Rodriguez and reigning RP Ladies Open titlist Debbie de Villa, the Philippines is eyeing to improve on its runner-up finish in team competition last year and a third-place effort by Anya Tanpinco in the individual competition.

Tanpinco joins De Villa and Ardina in RP Team A, one of the early favorites in the 54-hole event that drew 80 players from the Asean region.

Sponsored by the International Container Terminal Services, Inc., the lady golfers are campaigning in three squads, with Rodriguez heading Team B that includes Mia Piccio and Lora Roberto.

RP Team C is composed of Bambee dela Paz, Crystal Superal and Linnel de Villa.

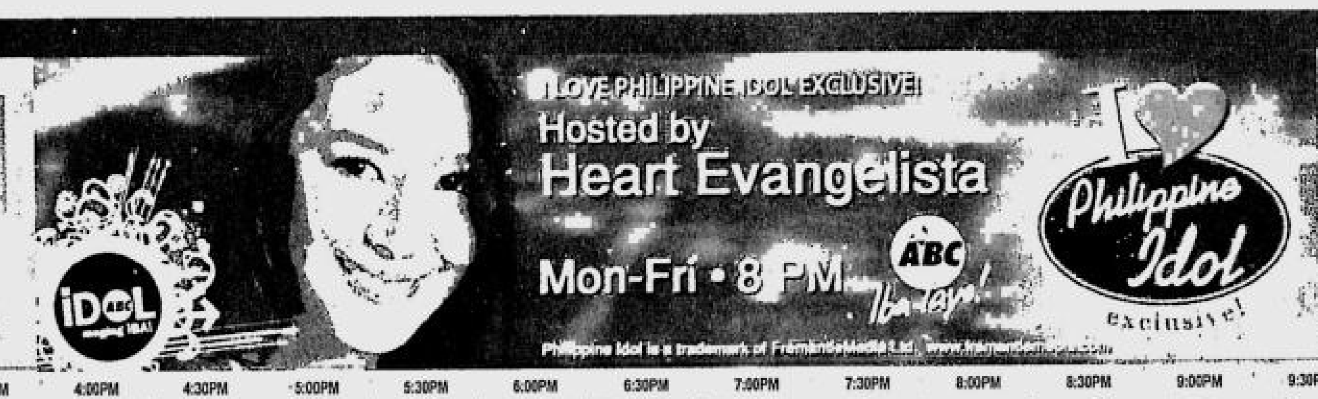
Coach Bong Lopez, who also oversees the training of the national teams under the ICTSI golf program with Chris Guerrero, Nestor Mendoza and pro Tony Lascuna, said premium will be on accuracy at the par-72, 5909-meter layout.

"The fairways are hard and the greens super fast," said Lopez, who expects a tough challenge from the local bets, the Thais and the Malaysians. So they must be accurate with their shots and try to keep the ball below the hole."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesday September 5 2006



I LOVE PHILIPPINE IDOL EXCLUSIVE!
Hosted by
Heart Evangelista
Mon-Fri • 8 PM
ABC
Iba tayo!
Philippine Idol
exclusive!
Philippine Idol is a trademark of FremantleMedia Ltd. www.fremantlemedia.com

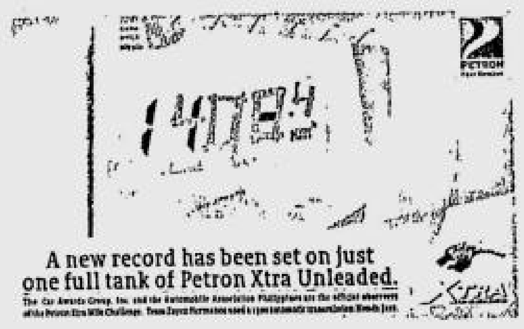
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Ultimate Guinness World Records		ALI		Big News	Fear Factor	Philippine Idol Exclusive (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	A Love To Kill		Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)				The Ultimate Fighter		Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race: Family Edition		Ripley's Believe It or Not				CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dize	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinemax		From Here To Eternity				Blind Date (Movie)			Dog Park			Passenger 57			Dinocroc (9:20PM)			A Nightmare On Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Grid		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Watersports Programming Hot Water		Pro Billiards '06 Enjoypool.com Women's Open 9-ball C'ships		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Weetabix Women's British Open Day1				Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (DeGeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy		The Redeemer			
HBO			Pink Cadillac (3:45PM)				Doorways (5:45PM)			Lethal Weapon 2 (7:10PM)				Entourage 13: Neighbors	Entourage 14: Chinatown	Lackawanna Blues			Beethoven's 2nd
Hero TV	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B'Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sabas On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	Sessions Protein Shake	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Handpicked Protein Shake	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions Protein Shake	MTV Hits	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures: Port of Rotterdam		Dream Jets: Designer Flight		Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	WOW! Wild Sex: Deviants?		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Hollywood Science Car Chases		Spot Talk, Taiwan To The World	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubuyog		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Fight On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Pintsik Haik				Ang Dandig Koy Ikaw				Nagmumurang Kamatis				Imortal				Starlet
Qtv	Love Revolution	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Jake In Progress	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		World Pool 2006 Masters		Gymnastics: FIG World Cup Beijing, China				2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: SF1				World Pool Trick Shots '06				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's- Russia	
Sports Plus			This Is The PGA Tour		Golf Today	World Game		Sony 500 Highlights		RM Underwater Hockey	Nopi Tunervision	Ultimate Fighting C'ship: The Tournament				Raceworld		U.S. Open '06 Day9: 16th Rd.	
Star Movies			Class Action (3:45PM)				The Wedding Date (5:45PM)			First Kid (7:15PM)				Home Alone 2: Lost In New York				Armageddon	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful			General Hospital	Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Life As We Know It		Life As We Know It		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	Life As We Know It
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion	Smallville (8:15PM)		Gilmore Girls		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXilog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ThinkPad. Z61t
Experience the fine line between business and pleasure.
Available in sleek titanium or classic black. Comes in 15.4" widescreen displays.
call us now for more info!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
+632 727 3801 • 744 3000 • www.icscom.ph

BUSINESS
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

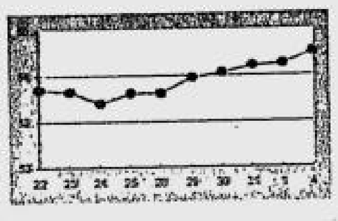


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Peso still gaining, closes at 50.48:$1

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

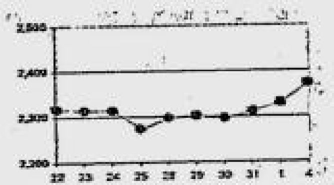
₱50.48= $

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 4, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

AUGUST SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks continue to rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED STRONGER FOR A third-straight session yesterday, rising 1.79 percent to a three-week high as concerns over inflation eased on the back of the peso's gains against the dollar, dealers said.

STOCKS/ B3

Foreign buying of stocks, bonds boosting currency

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY TOUCHED A FOUR-YEAR HIGH of 50.475 before closing at 50.48 against the dollar on strong foreign buying of local stocks and bonds as well as the increasing likelihood that the Federal Reserve Board will keep US interest rates unchanged for the rest of the year.

The local currency gained another 25.5 centavos from Friday's close of 50.735 to post its strongest closing rate since July 22, 2002.

"The outlook continues to be positive for the peso but expect minor corrections after the peso hits low-50 level," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines and treasurer of BDO Private Bank.

The local currency jumped past Friday's peak of 50.70 to open stronger at 50.61. It hit an intra-day low of 50.66 before closing near the day's high of 50.475 against the greenback. Volume traded at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System amounted to $548 million.

Aside from the strong influx of foreign funds into local portfolio, the peso was also boosted by bullish currency trading across the region given increasing expectations that US interest rates would be kept at current levels to support economic growth in the world's biggest economy.

The yen, Chinese yuan, Singapore dollar, Thai baht, South Korean won and Taiwan dollar likewise gained sharply against the US dollar.

Domestic economic fundamentals were also supporting the peso's

PESO / B3

OIL PRICE SURGE AFTERMATH

Trade gap seen widening to $8.78B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES EXPECTS ITS trade deficit to widen to as much as $8.78 billion this year from $7.55 billion last year as skyrocketing oil prices and purchases of raw materials for electronics exports bloat the import bill.

But this shortfall in merchandise trade is seen being mitigated by strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers, allowing the country to sustain a current account surplus of $2.3 billion or 2 percent of gross domestic product for 2006 compared with the surplus of $2.4 billion or 2.4 percent of GDP in 2005, according to latest documents from the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination committee.

The current account, a key component of the country's balance of payments, records trade in goods and services as well as cash transfers, such as from overseas workers.

The DBCC earlier raised its export growth target for this year to 10 percent from 8 percent as well as the projected rise in OFW remittances to 11 percent from 10 percent.

But based on latest actual data, the country could significantly trim its trade deficit versus the target for the full year due to higher-than-expected growth in export earnings, the country's declining dependence on oil imports and the sharp appreciation of the peso.

The peso has now appreciated by

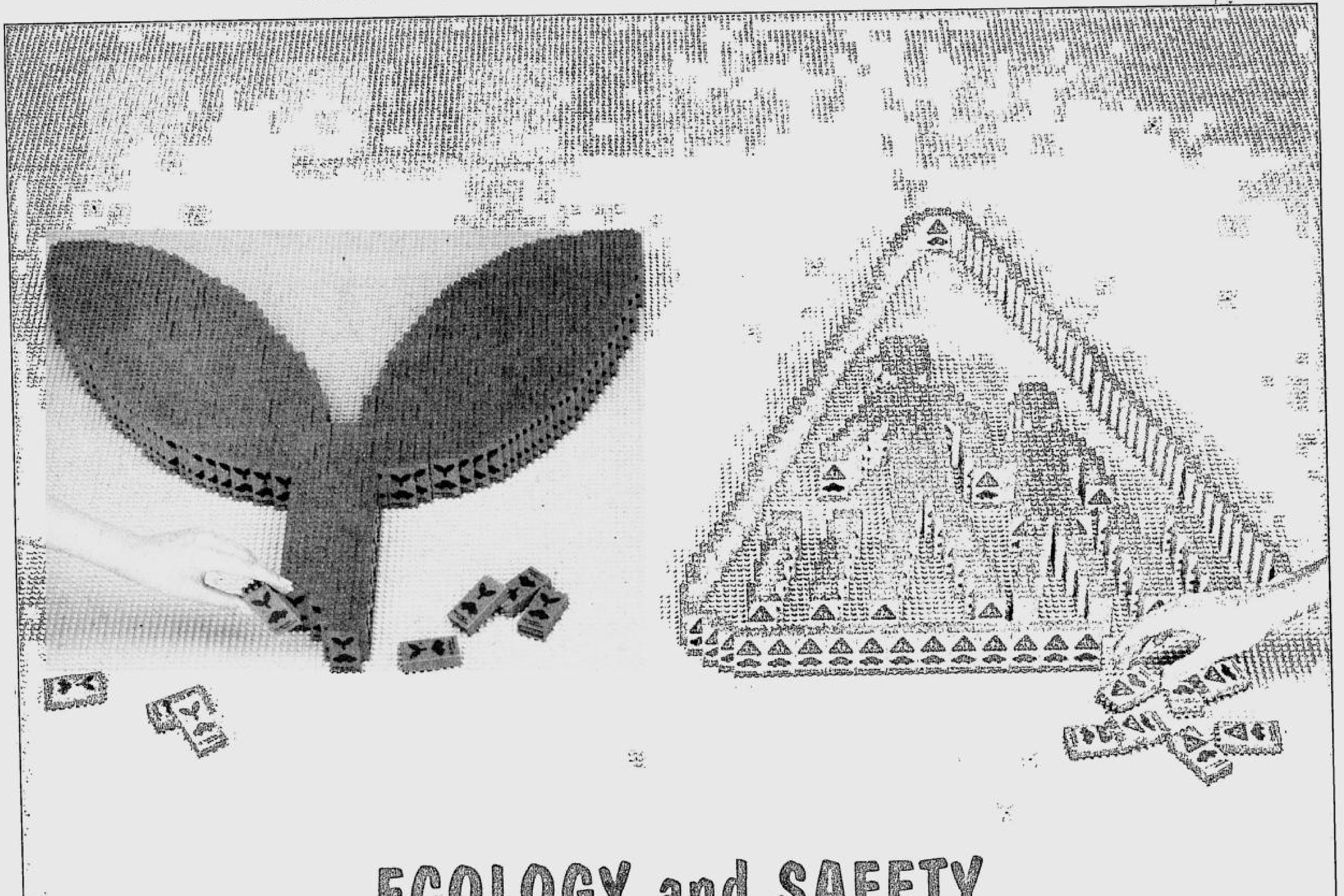
TRADE/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE

▨ **Ayala Corp. declares** cash dividends /B2

▨ **Volcanic** activity in the market /B3

▨ **Debt-to-GDP ratio** improving /B6



ECOLOGY and SAFETY

If we work together, little things can make a big difference.

At Toyota, we're committed to growing together with you. That's why we try to contribute to society in every way we can, and are doing our best to make the world a safer, greener place for everyone. It's not a goal that can be achieved overnight, but if we all work together, we can make a big difference.

TOYOTA
moving forward

For more information: www.toyotaecosafety.com

Ayala Corp. declares cash dividends

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONGLOMERATE AYALA CORP. yesterday declared cash dividends worth P137 million on its preferred class B shares for the period starting July 21 until October 21, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

Ayala's board of directors approved the payment of cash dividends out of the company's retained earnings of P42.5 billion as of end-December 2005.

The cash dividend rate translates to 9.4578 percent a year—a fixed rate for the first five years.

The dividend will be available to preferred B shareholders on record as of Sept. 29. It will be paid to them on Oct. 21.

Last July 21, Ayala raised roughly $105 million (P5.8 billion) from its preferred share offer, touted as Asia's first publicly offered local currency hybrid deal.

Ayala easily sold 58 million preferred shares at P100 a share during its public offer last July, drumming up more than P7 billion worth of orders.

About 20 percent of the total issue was picked up by retail investors, sources said.

This is the third time the country's oldest conglomerate has successfully raised funds from the capital and debt markets.

The first was in 2004, when Ayala issued a P7-billion bond, then said to be the single biggest peso-bond issue. The second time was in 2005 when it generated a combined P7.2 billion from a loan and fixed rate corporate note issue.

The fresh funds boosted the company's cash pile to $330 million. As of June this year, Ayala has cash assets worth $225 million, enough to cover its maturing debts.

Total remaining debts as of June this year stood at $23.8 million. Next year, Ayala's outstanding debts will be worth $80 million.

PRODUCTIVITY TRAINING
Aiming for Global Competitiveness Endorsed by the Construction Industry, Accredited by the Civil Service Commission, DOLE and other Govt. Agencies

Construction Management Seminars
(Based on the Project Management Body of Knowledge, USA)
Construction Project Time Management Sept. 14-15
Construction Project Quality Management Oct. 19-20
Construction Project Cost Management Nov. 9-10
Construction Project Contract Management Dec. 14-15
Construction Safety Seminars
(Accredited by DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions)
Construction Safety & Health Sept. 25-29/Nov. 20-24
Construction Supervisory Seminars
Rebarworks
Masonry Works/Concrete Works
Formworks
Electrical Works
Plumbing Works
Equipment Management
Open for reservation/ In-house or In-company
Orientation Sem/Training for Eng'g & Arch'l Students
Seminar on Construction Safety
Rebar Works/Concrete Works/Formworks
Blockworks & Plastering
Building Electrical Works
Plumbing Works
Open for reservation

Our Center in Cavite is one of the biggest in South East-Asia. We design courses to suit client needs. We offer job-site training-cum production.

dti CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION "Building a better foundation of your future".
CMDF
2/F Oppen Bldg. 349 Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City
Tel. # 890-5333 loc. 614/ 890 11-37, ask for Glo/Arnel
E-mail: cmdf_dti@yahoo.com
URL:http://www.mydestiny.net/~cmdf
For Visayas & Mindanao. Tel # (082) 224-0511, ask for Jane

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

13th MANAGING FAMILY CORPORATIONS
A Healthy Family in a Healthy Business
October 9 - 13, 2006 / AIM, Manila

RECOMMENDED FOR:
Family members and professional managers of family-owned businesses. Participants should be at least 21 years old or college graduate.

PROGRAM BENEFIT
This family business management course will help you identify and analyze the key issues and challenges of family corporations. You will understand the distinctive qualities and interrelationships of family corporations as well as recognize potential areas for improvement within the family business. Through the viewpoints of family dynamics and family business systems, you would able to develop and implement improvements to ensure growth. For maximum benefit and impact, family corporations should be represented by at least two family members (from different generations) and at least one professional manager. However, individual enrollment is also acceptable.

PROGRAM CONTENT
FAMILY SYSTEMS
- Genogram
- Power
- Family Theories
- Individuation
- Managing Conflicts in the Family
- Appreciative Inquiry and Family Assessment

BUSINESS SYSTEMS
- Succession
- Managing Transitions
- Boards and Governance
- Professionalization and Corporate Culture

LEARNING PROCESS
A variety of teaching methods will be used- lectures, workshops and group discussions and presentations. However, foremost among the teaching methods utilized at AIM is the case method, a technique pioneered by the Harvard Business School and adapted to the Asian setting by AIM.
The workshop sessions will include planning, analyzing problems, plotting genograms and discussions on vision / mission / family constitution.

Please fax this reply form to 893 2031 or 893 2050
☐ I would like to register in the 13th FAMCOR ☐ Please send me a list of other programs
Name:
Company: Position:
Address:
Tel. No.: Fax No.: Email:
Contact: Excell Marketing Group, look for Raul Senedrin / Yola Genuino / Apple Ani
Tel Nos.: (632) 893 2031 / 892 4011 loc. 166; 228; 526; Email: excell@aim.edu; rsenedrin@aim.edu

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Prof. Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzales has been the research champion of the Managing Family Corporations Program in AIM. She has been Program Director of the Famcor Program since it was launched in 1998. Prof. Gonzales holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of the Philippines (1983) and a Master in Business Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (1992). She earned her Professional Diploma in Pastoral Counseling and Family Ministry from the Center of Family Ministries (CEFAM), Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University (2004). She is currently taking her Ph.D. in Organizational Development at the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI).

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY
- Prof. Jacinto Gavino, Jr., Ph.D.
- Prof. Milagros Du-Lagrosa
- Prof. Juan A. Kanapi, Ph.D
- Prof. Teodoro Ma. P. Dizon
- Prof. Maya B. Herrera
- Prof. Ning S. Lagman

AIM EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER
EQUIS ACCREDITED
Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines

Name dripping

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN ITS CRACKDOWN ON "SMUGgling," which got the business community cheering like cute college girls, this cute administration of Gloriaetta must still contend with this little thing called "name-dropping."

Often dropped at the Bureau of Customs are, of course, the names of members of the First Family.

From what I hear at the Customs, the Palace already has put out a list of, er, "smugglers" who drop the names of Gloriaetta's relatives more often than a dripping faucet.

Malacañang thus warned them: "Stop it or else…"

My sources said the Palace, for instance, had sent word to the group of a certain Joel Reyes and that of a certain Jun Almeda, both of whom are said to be enjoying lucrative business on tax- and duty-free bonded warehousing.

At the piers, Reyes is known to be close to Customs chief Boy Morales and BOC intelligence chief Celso Templo. The Customs personnel also know him, based on his own representation, as a relative of an influential congressman who belongs to the same political party as Gloriaetta's.

The Almeda guy passes himself off as a close relative of the aide of Rep. Mikey Arroyo, who happens to be the son of Gloriaetta.

Now, bonded warehousing is a legitimate business, allowing tax- and duty-free importation of materials for the manufacture of export goods.

Again, it is legal—which is why it is the favorite modus operandi of smugglers nowadays.

The incoming shipment is legal, needing only a customs fee of P250 per container to be taken out of the piers which, by the way, is also the legal fee.

The raw materials are then taken from the piers to the tax-free bonded warehouse—also legally.

That's why smuggling becomes a walk in the park. Everything is legal, right? The raw materials (mainly resins and textiles) simply find their way to the domestic market. Who checks the warehouses, anyway?

Estimates show that, thanks to such innovative uses of bonded warehouses, the government forgoes potential revenue of at least P100 million a month.

Thus, word is going around that Malacañang is said to have warned Reyes and Almeda, plus all those bigtime business groups who are their clients.

The party is over, guys.

* * *

Over at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the BOC unit cannot locate millions of pesos worth of jewelry in its safekeeping.

A foreigner who, according to my info, looked Asian (either Japanese or Korean), actually brought in the items. They were put in the BOC "in-ban" unit for safekeeping.

Sometimes, incoming travellers may not have the cash to pay for customs duties and taxes on what they may be bringing into the country. The "in-ban" unit keeps the goods until the passengers redeem them.

Question: How can the BOC at Naia lose such expensive items, such as jewelry, unless somebody inside the BOC took them?

Word has it that the head of the Naia in-ban unit was transferred due to the scandal. The same official is now trying to get back the Naia position. The nerve!

* * *

Just between us girls, taxpayers are going to shoulder the cost for improving the BCDA's public image. I hear that the corporation has a P6.5-million budget for PR.

But why on earth does a government outfit like the BCDA need a humongous PR budget? Well, I can only think of Poro Point, the seaport in La Union.

Last month, somebody sent heavily armed troops to Poro Point, who then prevented workers from entering the port. Up to now, the port is not operating. So-called "guards" are blocking the entrance. What a waste!

And this cute administration wants to spend billions upon billions on infrastructure? Look, boss, that's one expensive port that's not even running.

According to the BCDA president Narciso Abaya, who is a former AFP chief, the BCDA is helpless over the Poro Point issue. The BCDA subsidiary for the port, called PPMC, is an independent outfit. The BCDA then could not do anything when PPMC moved to cancel the port operation contract with a private firm called Bulk Handlers.

At the same time, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson attacked Abaya in media over the Poro Point issue. Singson accused Abaya of collusion with the port operator Bulk Handlers.

And so, why does the BCDA need P6.5 million for PR? BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa has posted an invitation on the Internet to bid for a P3.5-million PR contract.

Recently, the BCDA board approved another P3 million, er, "supplemental budget" for its Poro Point subsidiary PPMC.

Will the money help in reopening Poro Point? Or will this rather expensive "crisis PR campaign" only serve to cover up the boo-boos of public officials?

Like it or not, it is hard for the BCDA to justify the takeover of Poro Point, much less the sad fact that the port is not operating. That's probably why it needed P6.5 million for PR.

It is, after all, only taxpayers' money. It's not as if everything was the fault of taxpayers!

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 4, 2006)

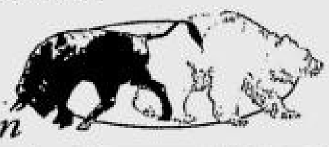
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37	37.5	36.5	37	374,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	54.5	53.5	54	1,463,100
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	2,610
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.49	0.41	0.48	29,260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	79	79	78.5	79	144,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	38.5	39	540,800
Philippine National Bank	34	35	34	34.5	57,000
Phil. Savings Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.5	17.75	18.5	70,200
Security Bank Corp.	52.5	53	52	52	237,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.3	2.38	2.26	2.38	864,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	5,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1645	1640	1645	2,320
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	.72,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	220	220	220	220	400
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2045	2055	2040	2055	860
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,540,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	48	48	48	4,637,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	46.5	44	46.5	1,827,500
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	18.25	17.25	18.25	471,800
Manila Electric Co. B	28	29.5	28	29	2,286,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.1	9	9.1	7,919,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	5,610,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	900,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	530,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	22.75	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33.5	33	33	377,800
RFM Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.89	130,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	5,033,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	223,700
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	71	70.5	70.5	132,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	1,745,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,000,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.32	14,650,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	490,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.4	4.4	3.8	3.9	99,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	70,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	24,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.57	220,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	170,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.65	0.67	115,080,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.165	11,740,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	4,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	110,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	254,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.009	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	452.5	455	450	455	171,930
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.63	2,170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5.1	6,933,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	45,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.86	833,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,940,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	317,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.04	1,330,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	4.05	5.4	4.05	4.5	4,660,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.52	1,913,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.22	38,547,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.8	1,496,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,230,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.28	191,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	1,360,000
Medco Holdings	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	470,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.37	0.45	0.37	0.39	170,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.2	3.15	2.2	3.15	27,379,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	13,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	210,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.59	860,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	7,710,000
SM Investments Corp.	222	223	222	223	798,910
South China Resources Inc.	1.14	1.32	1.12	1.12	6,732,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	2.02	2.2	1.72	1.8	4,664,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,660,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	1,590,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	14.25	13.5	14.25	14,302,800
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	9,555,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,750,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.34	2.36	2.32	2.36	3,472,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	2,050,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	910,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.075	0.0775	0.075	0.075	15,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	11,610,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	520,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.2	300,000
Interport Res.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	67,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	22,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	5,800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	9,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.78	59,667,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	70,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	2,510,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	132,900
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	8,470,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	203,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	6,192,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.74	0.79	0.74	0.74	4,070,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	7,300,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	18,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	3,207,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	995	1020	995	1015	216,900
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.2	4.3	13,269,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1935	1960	1935	1960	234,780
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	6,850,000
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.02	41,600,000
Ionics Inc.	2.06	2.06	2.02	2.02	692,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	5,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	5,700,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	59,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	105,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	145,700
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	13,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.7	6.5	4.7	6.5	4,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.78	1.86	1.78	1.84	28,315,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	3,450,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,420,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc.	2.85	3.1	2.85	2.95	1,405,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.3	2.32	270,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	250,400
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	790,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	911,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.014	0.01	0.014	6,016,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.5	9.2	9.4	7,102,000
Benguet Corp. A	12	12.5	12	12	60,800
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.3	2.16	2.24	407,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	4,840,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	276,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	226,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	757,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4	3.85	3.95	3,986,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.05	3.95	4	6,300,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.25	21.25	20	20.5	295,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	80,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,950,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	645,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	102,800,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,038,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	239,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	5	5	5	5	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	11.25	11.5	11	11	252,700
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	12,920
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	43,300

CURRENCIES

September 4, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.778695	1.000000	50.7550
Japan	Yen	0.006652	0.008542	0.4335
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484270	1.906100	96.7441
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100121	0.128576	6.5259
Switzerland	Franc	0.633239	0.813206	41.2743
Canada	Dollar	0.705020	0.905387	45.9529
Singapore	Dollar	0.495605	0.636456	32.3033
Australia	Dollar	0.596930	0.766577	38.9076
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.065614	2.652661	134.6358
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207630	0.266638	13.5332
Brunei	Dollar	0.494033	0.634437	32.2008
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020782	0.026688	1.3545
UAE	Dirham	0.212029	0.272287	13.8199
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.284200	65.1796
Argentina	Peso	0.251801	0.323363	16.4123
Brazil	Real	0.364302	0.467836	23.7450
Denmark	Kroner	0.134089	0.172197	8.7399
India	Rupee	0.016789	0.021561	1.0943
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212439	0.272814	13.8467
Mexico	New Peso	0.071634	0.091992	4.6691
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510285	0.655308	33.2602
Norway	Kroner	0.122957	0.157901	8.0143
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012888	0.016551	0.8400
South Africa	Rand	0.107678	0.138280	7.0184
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001041	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.107095	0.137531	6.9804
Syria	Pound	0.015001	0.019264	0.9777
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023688	0.030420	1.5440

Volcanic activity in the market

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

THE MARKET IS NOW GATHERING MOMENTUM as turnover picked up from its average of P1 billion to P2 billion on Thursday and P3 billion on Friday, a level not seen in a long time. Admittedly, cross sales accounted for about half, due to TEL trading almost P1 billion, but other stocks to trade over P100 apiece were SM, MEG, BDO, FGEN, BPI, GLO, PLTL, MIC, AC and AT. Also active were ALI, MWC and GEI.

Of course, all the news was good. In the US, GDP for the second quarter was revised upwards from 2.5 percent to 2.9 percent. The job number released Friday night was in line with analysts' expectations and confirmed that the economy was still growing but at a more sedate pace. Bernanke said that production should remain strong. Growth in productivity is a key ingredient in living standards. With productivity growth at 2.5 percent and labor growth at 1 percent, the economy could grow at 3.5 percent without inflationary pressures.

At home, the government reported that in the second quarter, GDP rose 1.7 percent from the first quarter after rising 1.1 percent in the three months to March. Accelerating growth plus easing inflation due to the reduction in the price of oil, gave investors increased appetite for the peso, which closed the week at 50.735, an appreciation of 4.5 percent over the dollar in the past year.

The Treasury took advantage of the falling interest rates to mop up P58 billion of short-dated bonds in exchange for an equivalent amount of 10-year bonds with a coupon of 9.125 percent. This clever move by the central bank takes the pressure off repaying short-term debt, substantially lengthening maturity dates and giving the government more money to spend on infrastructure, schools, ports etc. It also creates a viable bond market that we have never had before.

Bangko Sentral Governor Tetangco is now able to forecast lower inflation ahead as the price of oil is falling, the peso is strengthening and this should help food prices remain stable. No wonder foreign brokers returned to the equity market in force. On Friday, net buying increased fivefold from P111 million to P525 million.

The main event of the week was the decision of SM to bid P92 for the shares of EPCI that it does not already own. This is a generous bid, particularly if you look at the book value multiple, which is much higher than in bids for other banks. I am sure that SSS, GSIS and EBC will accept it and other shareholders to do so or sell in the market. The immediate value of the bid, allowing for the fact that 70 percent will not be paid for 2 years is P79.

BDO has 2 years in which to apply its superior expertise and extract a higher return of assets from EPCI. There is plenty of scope for economies as EPCI has twice as many branches as BDO. They may close down a few branches but not many. The gains will come through greater use of EPCI's assets and the introduction of new products.

Last week, I wrote about the conversion of 3.4 million PLDT preferred loans into an equal number of common shares. I said there was scope to take a handsome profit but I did not suggest that the shares would be sold down. From the cross sales last week in TEL, particularly on Friday, it looks as if the shares are being crossed so as not to depress the price of TEL. These crosses may continue for a while; after which TEL could recover.

On Friday, there was also a large cross sale of SM worth P222 million into foreign hands and we can expect to see more of this. I think that one of the most important sections of my newsletter is the one that shows in detail, which stocks foreign brokers are buying and selling each day. Foreign brokers get to know information before we do so it pays to follow them.

For example, some time ago, they started accumulating MERB. I couldn't think why, as the company is not doing well and has a large amount of money to refund to the public. But the shares have risen steadily from P22 to a high of P29. Meralco is now asking for a 30-percent increase in the distribution rate and might well get it. The company needs a rate increase for maintenance, repair breakdowns and fix wear and tear. It would be embarrassing for the government to have brownouts in 2007, an election year, so they might get lucky. Our research department is recommending MERB as a buy.

Another stock that foreign brokers have been accumulating steadily is PLTL, usually P10 million a day. On Wednesday, my chart signaled a breakout so I told clients to get in at P3.85. On Thursday, the buying increased to P16 million and on Friday, the net buying jumped to P64 million and the price to P4.30. I have not had time to look at the fundamentals but I am betting they know something. PLTL is adding subscribers at a faster rate than SMART and by next year, it should have paid off all its debt. Thereafter, it could be in a position to pay good dividends and SMART might be tempted to bid for the small percentage it does not own. I do not own any shares.

I only follow first and second liners because that occupies all my time so I cannot follow the third liners. During the week, MIC, B, MEDCO, AA, AR, BAL, SPM and GEI all went limit up at some stage, as did my blood pressure.

If you want to hear the latest rumors on these and other stocks, log on to www.financemanila.net/forum/. This is a free web site that keeps you up to date with what young Filipino traders and brokers are thinking. Unfortunately, much of it is in Filipino so I cannot follow it. You are free to contribute your own thoughts and ideas and interact with other members. Obviously, you should use your own judgment before buying stocks but it gives you access to a lot of people and is in effect a chat room for traders. It has been around since 1998.

I have excluded jokes this week as there is so much activity at the moment and I must give priority to the stock market. I did, however, visit a delightful restaurant called Bubba Gump located in Greenbelt 3. It is an American franchise so the food is very different and the portions enormous. The Boat Trash is a huge fry-up of prawns, lobster meat and French-fries and quite delicious. The desserts are to die for and the strawberry juice contains real strawberries. Just the place to impress your girl friend.

I will include jokes next week before all my readers abandon me.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

NORTHERN PALAWAN PRIME PROPERTIES

- 11 has. Island on West Busuanga with white sand beach 5 to 6 has. Buildable area. Excellent for resort development. 23M
- 61 has. Big Island located Western Busuanga. Surrounded by lush mangrove forest. Good for golf course, marina or retirement development. Planted with some fruit trees. 28M
- 21 has. Farm Land. Busuanga Island. Bounded by river. 7.5M
- 1.4 has. Beach Front. On East Busuanga Island. White sand. 2.5M
- 14 has. On East Side of Busuanga Island. Good for resort. 15M
- 3 has. West Busuanga Island. Good for small resort. White sand beach. 2.5M
- 1 ha. Coron Town. Good for residence or investment. 3.5M
- 1.7 has. Along hi-way, 7 km. to Coron. 3.5M

Contact: PALAWAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CORP.
Cell Nos. : 0928 7092408 or 0918 9351004
ppmcparadiseyours@yahoo.com

SM asked to clarify tender offer for EPCIB shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) wants the group led by SM Investments Corp. of mall tycoon Henry Sy to clarify certain items of its proposed buyout offer, particularly on how it plans to pay shareholders of third largest lender Equitable PCI Bank, well-informed sources said.

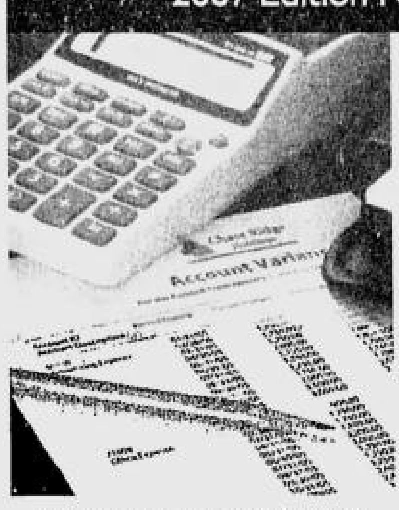
The sources stressed that the regulator did not want to stop the "tender offer" of SMIC to buy all stocks of Equitable PCI that it does not own yet.

Instead, it wanted more disclosure from SMIC as to what agreements would be involved in the case of a default and whether its tender offer complied with the Securities Regulation Code. These clarifications were aimed at protecting the interest of public investors, the sources said.

They took note of SMIC's proposal to pay shareholders on installment: 10 percent each on Oct. 2, 2006, June 2, 2007, and Feb. 2, 2008, with the balance to be paid on Oct. 2, 2008.

A check for the 10-percent initial payment and promissory notes for the balance of payments will be issued on the tender offer's settlement date on Oct. 2 for shareholders that have delivered their certificate of shares or scripless shares directly to a transaction broker.

Sources at SMIC declined to make any comment pending official communication from the SEC.



Peachtree Accounting
2007 Edition Now Available

Product Line

GENERAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS:
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting 2006
Peachtree by Sage Complete Accounting 2006
Peachtree by Sage Accounting 2006
Peachtree by Sage First Accounting 2006

INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS:
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting for Construction 2006
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting for Nonprofits 2006
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting for Manufacturing 2006
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting for Distribution 2006
Peachtree by Sage Premium Accounting 2006 – Accountants' Edition

MACRO MIND
Cyberzone 4/F SM Megamall, Building B

Call us at 633-8154 to 55
email us at
macromindcorp@yahoo.com

Stocks ...

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 41.66 points to 2,371.10, the day's high and its best level since Aug. 7 when it closed at 2,378.63. It hit an intra-day low of 2,334.57 points.

The broader all-shares index rose 19.30 points to 1,475.23.

Gainers beat losers 76 to 32, with 46 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 9.53 billion shares worth P2.84 billion.

"The equities market's momentum is intact with the stronger peso and lower oil prices further boosting investor confidence," Accord Capital Equities analyst Lawrence de Leon said. *AFP*

Trade gap ...

From page B1

nearly 5 percent since the start of the year to close at 50.48 against the US dollar yesterday.

The country's actual trade deficit shrunk to $1.83 billion in the first semester from $3.19 billion a year ago as robust earnings from electronics exports mitigated the impact of high oil prices. The country's import bill increased by 8.4 percent to $24.57 billion in the first half but this was offset by the 16.8-percent surge in export earnings to $22.74 billion.

Based on the DBCC forecasts, Dubai oil prices would average at about $62 to $64 a barrel this year compared with $49.32 last year.

The country's top dollar earners are exporters of electronics products, which account for two-thirds of export earnings but also have a high import content.

Peso ...

From page B1

strength, given a resilient economic report for the first half, easing inflation rate and the government's budget deficit falling below targeted levels, currency traders said.

The peso has now appreciated by nearly 5 percent since the start of the year. The local currency closed at 53.09 in 2005.

Hilado said the 50:$1 would be the next key psychological barrier and the trend was pointing toward an appreciation to the 49:$1 level. He said the dollar would likely find support at 50.75-85 levels over the short term.

The higher bond yield in the US as influenced by the series of increases in the Fed's overnight rates from 1 to 5.25 percent over the past two years earlier lured global investors back to dollar-denominated assets, causing the shift away from emerging markets like the Philippines. But since the US Fed is widely expected to keep its rate steady, bonds and equities denominated in local currencies in emerging markets were again becoming attractive especially with the improvements in domestic economic fundamentals.

Robinsons Bank
Peso Time Deposit

TERM	INTEREST RATES*
1 year	6.50% per annum
3 years	7.00% per annum
5 years	7.25% per annum

* Net of documentary stamp taxes
* Gross of withholding tax except for 5 + 1 day term
* Subject to change without prior notice

MEGALINK

BEAT the ODDS for only P25,000

Interest for 5 years + 1 day term are credited monthly and not subject to withholding tax for individual depositors.
Loan Available for up to 90% of deposit.

Visit or call your nearest Robinsons Bank branch now!

We help secure your family's growth!

For more information call Customer Care at Tel no. 631-8888 for Metro Manila or 1-800-10-631-8888 for toll free Provincial calls.

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank
Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.

A JG Summit Company

QuickBooks® *Accounting Solutions For All Business Types*
Business Finance Management Made Easy!

Quick and Easy Way to Manage your Business

Call us now at
533-1562 | 533-3612
533-4095 | 533-6040
or visit www.mseedsystems.com

Accounting
Plus
Pro[1]
Premier[2]
Enterprise[1]

Features and Benefits:
- Multi-company reporting[1]
- Statement of cash flow[1,2,3]
- Units of measure[1,2,3]
- Track stock assembly(finished goods)[1,2,3]
- Multi-currency accounting[1,2,3]
- Customise price levels[1,2]
- Progress billing[1,2,3]
- Split payments
- Fixed asset tracker[1,2,3]
- Audit company file
- Industry specific editions[2]
- Calculate and track VAT
- Manage profit centers
- Easy, forms-based interface
- Seamless Integration to QuickBooks POS

Call Now!!! And See What You've Been Missing

Simple as accounting 1-2-3, right?
SIMPLIFY
A SMART TIP FROM YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SMALL MEDIUM BUSINESS

MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION

ORIGINATED FROM HANNOVER MESSE...

Two Specialized trade fairs
Over 1,500 exhibitors and 80,000 sqm display area

10 - 13 October 2006 • Shanghai New Int'l Expo Centre

PTC ASIA
International Exhibition for Electrical and Mechanical Power Transmission, Fluid Power Transmission, Compressed Air Technology, Machine Parts, Gears, Fasteners, Bearings, Internal Combustion Engines, and Gas Turbines

www.ptc-asia.com

CeMAT ASIA
International Exhibition for Materials Handling, Automation Technology, Transport Systems, Logistics and Trucks

www.cemat-asia.com

One meeting place for the industry

Register online and enjoy the Matchmaking Services

Hannover Fairs China Ltd. - Shanghai
Room 301, B&Q Pudong Office Tower, 393 Yinxiao Road, Pudong, Shanghai 201204, China
Tel.: +86-21-5045 6700 Fax: +86-21-5045 9355 www.hfchina.com

Fairs & More, Inc.
European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines 19/F, Philippine AXA Life Centre Cor. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. & Tindalo St. Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel.: +63 2 845-1324 / 759-6680 Fax: +63 2 845-1395 / 759-6690 sabado@eitsc.com www.eccp.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldng., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

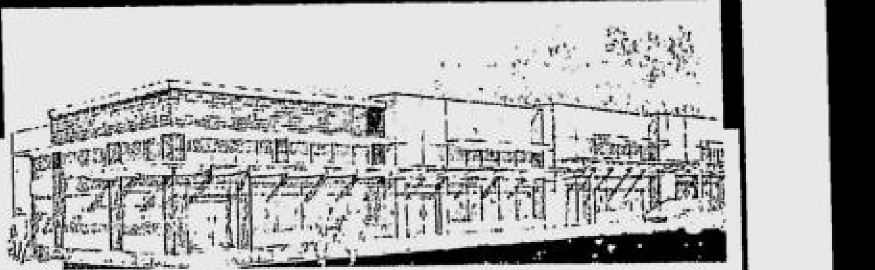
Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PITSTOP PRECISION IT SERVICES ON TIME, INC Pitstop Bldg., 1357 Candelaria St. Santiago Village, Makati City	Stephen Luke Warren	General Manager
GREAT OCEAN RESOURCES DEVELEOPMENT CORPORATION 271 Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City	Ho-Chang Chen	Quality Control Technician
GREAT OCEAN RESOURCES DEVELEOPMENT CORPORATION 271 Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City	Pa-Shan Chen	Quality Control Technician
GREAT OCEAN RESOURCES DEVELEOPMENT CORPORATION 271 Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City	Ching-Chang Hung	Quality Control Technician
GREAT OCEAN RESOURCES DEVELEOPMENT CORPORATION 271 Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City	Shui-Chin Chen	Quality Control Technician
ERICSSON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. 10/F Octagon Building, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Bin Hassan Khairy	Total Project Manager
JINSOL CORP. 45 Kalayaan Ave., Delicia Bldg. Diliman, Quezon City	Sun Duk Kim (w/o Kim)	Consultant
FISHER-ROSEMOUNT SYSTEMS, INC. 32/F One San Miguel Condominium Bldg., One San Miguel Avenue., cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Manu Lavania	Lead Service Engineer
TAYLOR NELSON SOFRES, PHILIPPINES, INC 12/F PSBank Center 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno St., 1226 Makati City	Justin Meyn	Country Finance and Administration Director
TRI-PHIL INTERNATIONAL, INC B1 L8 Tiosejo Industrial Complex, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Teruo Sato	Trion Product Manager
BAYSIDE EURO SHOPPER'S WORLD CORP. Financial Center, D. Macapagal Ave. Pasay City	Young Sik Park	Marketing Consultant
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC. Unit 2501, The Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sang Kyu Lee	Translator
BAYSIDE EURO SHOPPER'S WORLD CORP. Financial Center, D. Macapagal Ave. Pasay City	Kwang Phil Kim	Sales Consultant
EUROPEAN APPAREL MANUFACTURING CORP. B3, L12, Hon, Cruz St., Soldiers Hills Subd., Putatan, Muntinlupa City	Kaliyamoorthy Sankar	QA Head/ Production Coordinator
EUROPEAN APPAREL MANUFACTURING CORP. B3, L12, Hon, Cruz St., Soldiers Hills Subd., Putatan, Muntinlupa City	Gouse Syed Moosa	Production Manager
ANYFFICE PHIL. CORP Unit 8D2 Legaspi Towers, 300 Roxas Blvd. cor. Vito Cruz St., Malate, Manila	Heejin Park	Finance Manager
THE BANK OF TOKYO-MITSUBISHI LTD. 15/F Oledan Square, 6788 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Tatsuhiko Hayashi	Vice President
SANOFI-AVENTIS PHILIPPINES, INC 3/F Felisa Bldg., 108 VA Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Bhanwar Jai Singh	Business Support Director
JARDINE TECHNICAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC 222 Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City	Gunter Georg Taus	General Manager
PHIL 119 TOURS AND TRAVEL AGENCY CORP. Unit 908 Cityland & Land Mega Plaza Bldg. Ortigas, Pasig City	Kweon Young Kim	Vice President
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Zhijia Qi	Operations Manager
CJ CALL N TEXT INC. Suite 1007, 10/F Antel Global Corporate Tower, #3 Julia Vargas St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hee Kim	Manager
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Shiku Han	Asst. Technical Manager
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Jianjun Chen	Asst. Treasury Head
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Lianqi Fan	Technical Supervisor
LANE MOVING AND STORAGE, INC. Warehouse N-4, JY & Sons Compound Taguig, Metro Manila	Jeffrey Howard Cohen	Sales Manager
CHAN-CU ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. 1345-A to 1351 A Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Xuanxuan Chen	Chinese Language Computer Operator
IWEBMASTERS.COM.INC Unit 807 Antel 2000 Corporate Offices, 121 Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Richard Edward Latona	Operation Manager
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Wei Wu	Technical Manager
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6th Flr. 601 A S & L Bldg. 1500 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila	Rongban Qiu	Project Inspector
RAKSO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, INC. G/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St. Legaspi Village, Makati City	Seung Won Baek	General Manager
KORYO PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICE, INC. G/F Renaissance Bldg., Meralco Ave., Ugong, Pasig City	Jaemin Ha	Manager
KORYO PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICE, INC. G/F Renaissance Bldg., Meralco Ave., Ugong, Pasig City	Hwan Ha	General Manager
KORYO PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICE, INC. G/F Renaissance Bldg., Meralco Ave., Ugong, Pasig City	Jaejin Ha	Assistant Manager
DILIGENT MANPOWER SERVICES 10 Isidro Francisco St., Malinta Valenzuela City	Kazumichi Toyoda	Interpreter

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 5. 2006)

An Announcement for Rent only!!!



NEO PLAZA
- * 2 Storey Commercial Units (Food Haven)
- * From 176.0 to 286.30 SQ.M. per unit
- * Located along Gandara & Ongpin Sts. Manila
- * Construction On-going.
- * Turn-over January 2007, opening March 2007

For inquiries call Godiaco Holdings Inc.
Tel # 750-2507, 889-7827, 889-7828

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRTARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 E-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Personal Computers and Printers

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P10,025,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of personal computers and printers as enumerated below.*

LOT	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1	248 units Personal Computers	8,680,000.00
2	11 units Notebook Computers	550,000.00
3	15 units Dot Matrix Printers, 135 col.	375,000.00
4	42 units Dot Matrix Printers, 80 col.	420,000.00
	TOTAL	10,025,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of personal computers and printers.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 10, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the-bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - Philsugin Bldg., North Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone No. - (632) 455-2758
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 455-2758
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Sept 5 & 12, 2006)

WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL
Putting Ideas to Work

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program is a five (5) year project being implemented by Winrock International (WI) in partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Energy (DOE), Mirant Philippines Foundation, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). AMORE 2 aims to contribute to the peace and development initiatives in Mindanao by improving the quality of life in 200 unelectrified rural communities through sustainable renewable energy projects and effective community organizing.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified suppliers to submit proposals on the supply, delivery and installation of 1,380 units of 20 Wp Solar Home Systems in 46 barangays in the Provinces of Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, and Tawi-Tawi.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be made in writing and delivered, emailed, or faxed to the address indicated below not later than 5:00 pm of September 08, 2006.

AMORE Office
Unit 1509 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Tel. No. +63 (2) 687-9091 to 92
Fax. No. +63 (2) 631-8215
email: info@amore.org.ph

All EOIs shall be evaluated by the AMORE-MIRANT Technical Review and Awards Team. Bidders shall be provided with a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) kit starting September 08, 2006. A pre-bid conference shall also be convened five (5) days after the issuance of RFP to discuss details and accommodate inquiries. Only DOE-accredited bidders shall be awarded the contract. Pre-qualified organizations shall be notified via fax or e-mail.

WI has been authorized to manage the procurement process. As such, WI reserves the right to reject any or all applications for pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the most advantageous offer to the project. WI assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

(PDI – September 5, 2006)

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Location/ Brief Description	Aircraft Charter Providers for the transport of currency/gold requirements to and from the various BSP Regional Offices/ Branches, per BSP terms of reference	indicative only
Approved Budget Contract	A. P23,300,000.00 for Small Aircraft B. P21,400,000.00 for Big Aircraft	
Completion date	One (1) year contract reckoned from the date of execution of the contract	

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bids shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 August 2006 to 14 September 2006 up to 2:00 PM only
2. Pre-bid Conference	15 September 2006, 4:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	3 October 2006, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the
5. Post-qualification	) prescribed periods allowed in the
6. Notice of Award	) Implementing Rules & Regulations) (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated) 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 0.05% of the total ABC's of items to be bid out, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept 5, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 252,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CURRENT TRANSFORMERS FOR THE CAVITE ECONOMIC ZONE**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of the following outdoor use, window type current transformers:

a)	Ratio: 400 : 5A	6 pcs.
b)	Ratio: 600 : 5A	15 pcs.
c)	Ratio: 800 : 5A	21 pcs.
d)	Ratio: 1,200 : 5A	6 pcs.

3. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

4 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years in the Supply and Delivery of Current Transformers and is able to supply, install and configure the proposed brand. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from 29 August to 15 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference to those who secured the Bidding Documents on 21 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 04 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.

9. Bid opening shall be on 04 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No.891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www. peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 29 & Sept 5 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5389

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Computer Supplies – HP Inks & Cartridges under Annual Procurement Program

Approved budget PhP 3,600,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Winthrop Z. Gutierrez** starting **August 28, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 31, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 5 at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of September 14, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) Francis M. Dolor
Chairman, Bids and Awards Commitee I

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
ASTI Bldg. Technology Park,C.P. Garcia Avenue
UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines
Phone (632) 426-9764, 426-9766 Fax: (632) 426-9756
http://www.asti.dost.gov.ph email: info@asti.dost.govph

INVITATION TO BID

The ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ASTI-DOST) is inviting all bidders for the Internet Services for the following:

1. OPTION1 : ADSL with Internet Services for 45 FITS Centers
2. OPTION 2: Wireless Mobile Internet Service

Notes:

- All proposal is inclusive of taxes, installation and other fees.
- DSL Provider must provision dedicated peering with ASTI/ PREGINET of at least 2 Mbps bandwith
- Contract is for an initial of 12 months subscription and is subject for possible renewal for another 6 months
- Will prioritize option 1 but will consider option 2 if there will be no responsive bidder for option 1

Pre-bidding Conference will be on September 19, 2006, 10:00AM and Opening of Tender will be on October 03, 2006, 2:00PM at ASTI Conference Room, ASTI Bldg., UP Technopark Complex, C.P. Garcia Avenue, UP Campus Diliman, Quezon City. Bidding Documents may be obtained from ASTI or call Ms. Neth Caser and Ms. Millet Pedro at tel. Nos. 426-9766, 426-7423, and 426-9767 for more details.

In case of failure of biddings due to ineligible or non-compliant of participating and responsive bidders, re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled one week after the announcement of a failed bid.

(Sgd) **JOSE ERIC S. MAGLANQUE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(RE-ADVERTISEMENT)

The Department of Transportation and Communications advertised on 09 & 15 August 2006 an Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Laguindingan Airport Development Project (Construction of Access Road) with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P188,768,270.74 to all firms/joint venture holding a PCAB license of General Engineering Large A for Airports and Highways.

In view of the typographical error which was inadvertently committed, the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid advertised on the aforementioned dates is amended to include all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures holding a Large B PCAB License of General Engineering for Airports and Highways.

The issuance of Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form 1) is extended from 06 to 12 September 2006.

Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished RES Form 1 and bring the original copy of the updated PCAB/IAC License and Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat, Office of the BAC Chairman for Foreign Assisted Air Transportation Sector Projects, Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City not later than 2:00 PM on 18 September 2006.

Due to this re-advertisement, the revised schedule of issuance, submission, and opening of bids are as follows:

Issuance of bid documents	– 10 to 16 October 2006
Deadline of submission of bidding documents	– 16 November 2006, not later than 2:00 P.M. at the same address above
Opening of Bids	– will immediately follow after the cut-off date and time of submission of bids.

Lastly, we shall refund accordingly the payment made for the purchase of RES Form I to those firms with PCAB License of General Engineering Large A for Airports and Highways.

(Sgd.) **ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES**
Assistant Secretary and PBAC Chairman
Foreign Assisted Air Transportation Projects

(PDI–Aug. 30 & Sept. 5, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5288

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Winch Trailer Mounted with Accessories under GQ 616730
Approved Budget: PHP 4,900,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Anthony E. Ciriaco** starting **August 29, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 07, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of September 21, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software

The **Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)**, through the 2006 Corporate Budget for the contract approved by its governing Boards intends to apply the sum of **Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Pesos & 00/100 (Php 4,127,000.00)** detailed below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software** for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening:

Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software	**Php 4,127,000.00**

The **BCDA** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software** for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project. Delivery of **GOODS** is required by November 29, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions To Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BCDA** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payments of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)** and proof that the bidder is duly registered with Department of Budget and Management-Electronic Procurement System (DBM-EPS). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **BCDA** will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 11, 2006, 1:30 p.m at Operations Conference Rooms A & B, 2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Tel No. (02) 816-6666.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 12:00 noon on September 25, 2006. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Lot to be Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank guarantee	One & a half percent (1 & ½%)
Surety Bond	Two & a half percent (2&1/2%)

Bid opening shall be on September 25, 2006 at 1:30 p.m at Operations Conference Rooms A & B, 2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bases Conversion & Development Authority (BCDA)
2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street,
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Secretariat: Ms. Nancy Paje
Tel No. (02) 816-6666 loc 122
Tele Fax No. (02) 816-1083

(Sgd.) Victor V. Zablan
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee for SCTEP

(PDI - August 29 & Sept 05, 2006)

IMMEDIATE HIRING
- CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES
- DECLARANT
- BOOKKEEPER

Pls. send resume at P.O. Box 2896 Manila

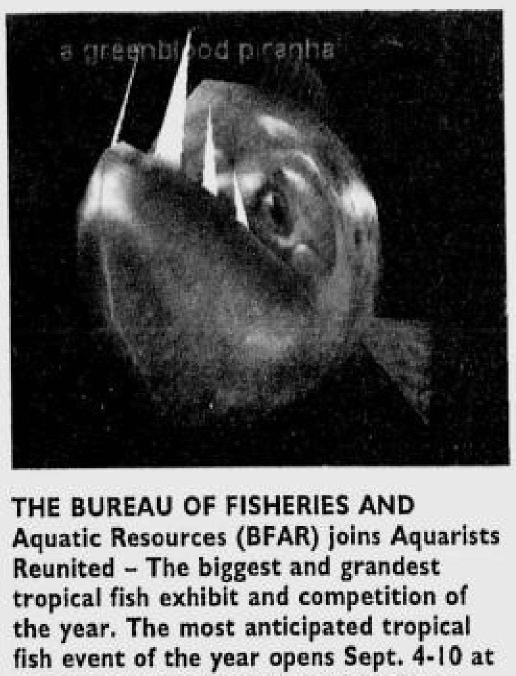
INVITATION TO BID
37 Packages of Electrolytic Tinplates
September 8, 2006
2:00 pm @ MASCO Office
For particulars, pls. contact:
Mr. Ding Placido or **Mr. Cesar Balino**
@ 813-0719 / 840-3672

RUSH SALE
P14M. Neg.
RESORT IN MATABUNGKAY
Visit:
www.hacienda.ph
Contact Liezl
09165968657

BUY * SELL * PAWN
WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER IN TOWN
8342886
8040484

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144 or
722-1155



THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND Aquatic Resources (BFAR) joins Aquarists Reunited – The biggest and grandest tropical fish exhibit and competition of the year. The most anticipated tropical fish event of the year opens Sept. 4-10 at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza. The organizers, Friends In the Same Hobby (FISH) and Shangri-La Plaza, boasts of its dangers in Piranha exhibit which will feature a live Piranha devouring goldfish, carp, and other fishes. BFAR will provide the Piranha for the exhibit and conduct a seminar to educate the public about this ferocious fish. For more details about the event, call or text 0917-8FISHER or 0922-8FISHER; or log on to www.fishinc.net.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE :
897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;
897-2535;
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO:
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

MAKATI :
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW :
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL :
635-0219; 635-0220

OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER NICHOLES (NIKKI) PAMINTUAN CASTRO

Peacefully joined the Lord
on September 3, 2006
at the age of 21.

His loving parents **Balagtas (Ottie)** and **Alice**; grandparents **Dakila** (†) and **Amparing** (†) **Castro, Jacobo** (†) and **Bella Pamintuan**; aunts and uncles, cousins, and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Ateneo College Chapel (Katipunan Road) and will be transferred to the Ateneo High School Chapel on September 6, 2006.

Interment will be on September 8, 2006, Friday (10:00 a.m.) at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Farewell dear voyager - 'twill not be long. Your work is done - now may peace rest with thee. Your kindly thoughts and deeds - they will live on. This is not death - 'tis immortality.

Jesus Ma. "Pocholo" Gomez Cui, Jr.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 03, 2006 at the age of 78.

His loving wife: **Adeling**, children: **Nieves, Carmen** and **Briccio, Mitos** and **Arturo, Baby** and **Manuel, Pia** and **Doug, Chito** and **Lita**, grandchildren: **Ryan, Trixie, Ciccy, Macky, David, Joaquin, Jade**, grandchildren-in-law: **Francis** and **Mitch**, great grandchildren: **Ryane, Rhys** and **Jericho**, would appreciate your special prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu.

His ashes will be brought to the Cebu Memorial Park at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 07, 2006, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Cebu Rolling Hills and cremation at 11:00 a.m.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila: 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Rogelio Ramos	Chapel B-7, Q.C.	Sept. 5, 2006; after the 9:00 am Mass	Himlayang Pilipino
Jose de la Cruz, Sr.	Chapel C-14, Q.C.	Sept. 6, 2006; 1:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Memorial Park
Salud Flores	Sta. Rita Parish, Philam Homes, Q. C.	Sept. 7, 2006; after the 9:00 am Mass	Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City

---

ATTY. RUFO B. ALBOR

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 3, 2006.

His loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on September 8, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels & Crematory.

ANTONIO WELLINGTON P. CHUA

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 28, 2006 at the age of 58.

His loving wife **Carmelita**; children: **Jinky Grace & Joel, Anthony Miller & Sheila, Willington & Rubirose, Charles Dexter & Sharon, Michelle Aine & Randy**; grandchildren: **Grachelyn Joy, Gellian Jewel, Geline Janah, Grace Jineah, Gwen Jaira, Alexis Michael-Lance, Rose Bernadette, Christopher Jhon Lloyd, Mickaela Dyainelle**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Bari, Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

Interment will be held at Pyramid Memorial Park, Mangaldan, Pangasinan on September 6, 2006, Wednesday, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Sto. Tomas Aquinas Church.

Debt-to-GDP ratio improving

Economic output seen to continue growing faster than gov't debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE RATIO OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT's debt to the country's gross domestic product is expected to improve further to 62.1 percent in 2007, backed by the improving fiscal condition and economic expansion.

The debt-to-GDP ratio, one of the economic indicators closely monitored by credit-rating agencies, measures an economy's capacity to service maturing obligations and the degree of economic burden arising from accumulated debts.

A decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio means that the country's economic output is growing faster than the government's debt. A rise in the ratio shows that the debt is growing faster than the economy's output.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the projected debt-to-GDP ratio in 2007 would be an improvement from the estimated 67.7 percent this year and the 71.7 percent in 2005.

The debt-to-GDP ratio projection for next year was based on the estimated P4.168 trillion in debt and the expected nominal GDP of P6.713 trillion.

The debt projection for 2007 was higher than the P4.082 trillion expected this year, as the government has to borrow more to plug its budget deficit.

This means the absolute debt figure will continue to grow for as long as there is a budget deficit.

The DOF is targeting to achieve a zero budget deficit by 2008 and a budget surplus by 2009. Fiscal authorities said the surplus in 2009 would allow the government to start trimming down its debt.

The debt-to-GDP ratio will go down in 2007 despite the increase in the absolute debt figure because of the projected growth in the GDP.

The projected P6.713-trillion nominal GDP next year would be better than the projected P6.028 trillion this year.

GDP, a common tool used to measure an economy's performance, is the sum of the values of goods and services produced in an economy in a given period. Nominal GDP measures economic output in current prices, while GDP is computed by factoring out inflation.

DOF data also showed that the amount to be spent by the government next year for debt servicing will hit P622 billion, or 9.3 percent of GDP. The amount of debt servicing next year will go down from the estimated P721.7 billion this year, or 12 percent of GDP.

The expected drop in debt servicing is attributed to the declining budget deficit, which will allow the government to borrow less.

The budget deficit is programmed to reach P125 billion or below this year and only P63 billion next year. The declining deficit is anchored on cautious spending and improving revenue collection.

JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD
Presidential Adviser on jobs creation Arthur C. Yap explains the administration's program for employment generation and training to community leaders and residents of Barangay Smokey Mountain in Manila during a visit of the 'Jobs Caravan.' Yap said the Jobs Caravan, a government team that goes to different *barangays* in Metro Manila to present jobs and livelihood opportunities to residents, was slated to visit 18 other priority areas in Metro Manila. This forms part of the administration's efforts to bring the government, private sector and local communities together to connect the urban work force with potential employers and livelihood projects.

Neda sees rise in personal consumption in H2

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEvelopment Authority said personal consumption was expected to rise further in the second half, as the strong inflows of remittances from overseas Filipino workers would encourage families to spend more.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda director for policy and planning, said the relatively wide gap between the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national product (GNP) in the first semester of the year was an indication of higher consumer spending in the second half.

Last week, the government announced that the GDP in the first half grew by 5.6 percent, keeping the economy on track to meeting the 5.5- to 6.2-percent full-year growth target. GDP is the sum of the value of goods and services produced in an economy in a given period.

GNP, which grew by 6.5 percent in the first six months, includes net factor income from abroad (NFIA), such as OFW remittances.

Arroyo said the difference between the GDP growth and that of the GNP would translate into increased consumer spending in the second half. This is expected to boost the country's chances of hitting the government's economic growth target for the entire year.

The Neda official said current trends indicated that household spending were largely focused on home appliances, which also led to increased power consumption.

Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) showed that personal consumption expenditure in the first half grew 5.4 percent. Arroyo said the second semester level would be higher.

NFIA posted a 16.8-percent growth in the first half of this year compared with the 11-percent rise recorded in the same period last year.

Personal consumption plays an important role in keeping the economy on track to meeting its growth target, with government expenditure restrained by the failure of Congress to pass the proposed 2006 national budget of P1.053 trillion and the bottlenecks in procurement that slow down spending by government agencies.

The government now runs on a reenacted national 2005 budget of P942 billion plus the P46.6 billion supplemental budget approved by legislators.

Michelle V. Remo

Tuna exports projected to rise by 25% this year

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE TUNA EXPORTERS ARE EXpecting no less than 25-percent increase in shipments this year despite the stricter rules imposed by importing countries, including the European Union.

The projected increase in exports would be brought about by rising tuna catch and the upgrading of existing fish port facilities in key tuna-producing areas in the country.

Socksargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries Inc. president Marfenio Tan said the upgrading of the fish port facilities in General Santos City in South Cotabato, alone, would translate to an increase in the average tuna export earnings from $420 million last year to $525 million this year. General Santos City is the country's biggest producer of tuna. There are six tuna canneries in the area.

Tan said the projected increase in exports was considered conservative, considering that this year's tuna catch was estimated to be higher than the average yearly catch of 400,000 metric tons due to favorable weather.

Currently, local tuna fish processors are exporting high value tuna for sashimi and steaks and canned tuna to Europe, US, Japan and neighboring Asian countries.

The industry, however, is facing tougher competition in these markets from Central America, Africa, the Caribbean and Andean countries.

Also, Spanish and Italian tuna canners are crafting a new fisheries code for the region this year that would effectively keep out of their markets tuna exports from the Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations), including the Philippines.

"In the next few years, Asean tuna suppliers would see their market shares declining as there are various measures being done in other regions to keep us out of their shores," said Francisco Buencamino, president of the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines (TCAP) in a previous interview.

The United States, for its part, is negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) with Central American countries (Cafta), which groups the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Once this is put in place, the US's tariff on tuna products from Cafta member-countries will be reduced to zero in 10 years.

Assessor confirms presence of oil in northwest Palawan

By Abigail L. Ho

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSULTING firm Gaffney, Cline and Associates (GCA) has completed its reserves certification program for Nido Petroleum Ltd.'s Galoc oil field, confirming that there are 9.7 million barrels of proved oil reserves in the area.

In a disclosure to the Australian Stock Exchange, Nido further said that, based on the same test, GCA confirmed that a total of 23.5 million barrels of proved and probable reserves may be found in the oil field.

Based on the Society of Petroleum Engineers/World Petroleum Council/American Association of Petroleum Geologists (SPE/WPC/AAPG) reserves definitions, "proved reserves are those quantities of petroleum, which, by analysis of geological and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be commercially recoverable from a given date forward."

Nido said it had commissioned GCA in April to perform the reserves certification and provide independent verification of the methodology that Nido would use in determining how much oil could be expected from the Galoc field.

The independent certification was also carried out to verify the results of Nido's seismic interpretation through petrophysical analysis and reservoir simulation, as well as to fulfill the commerciality requirements of the internationally recognized SPE/WPC/AAPG reserves definitions.

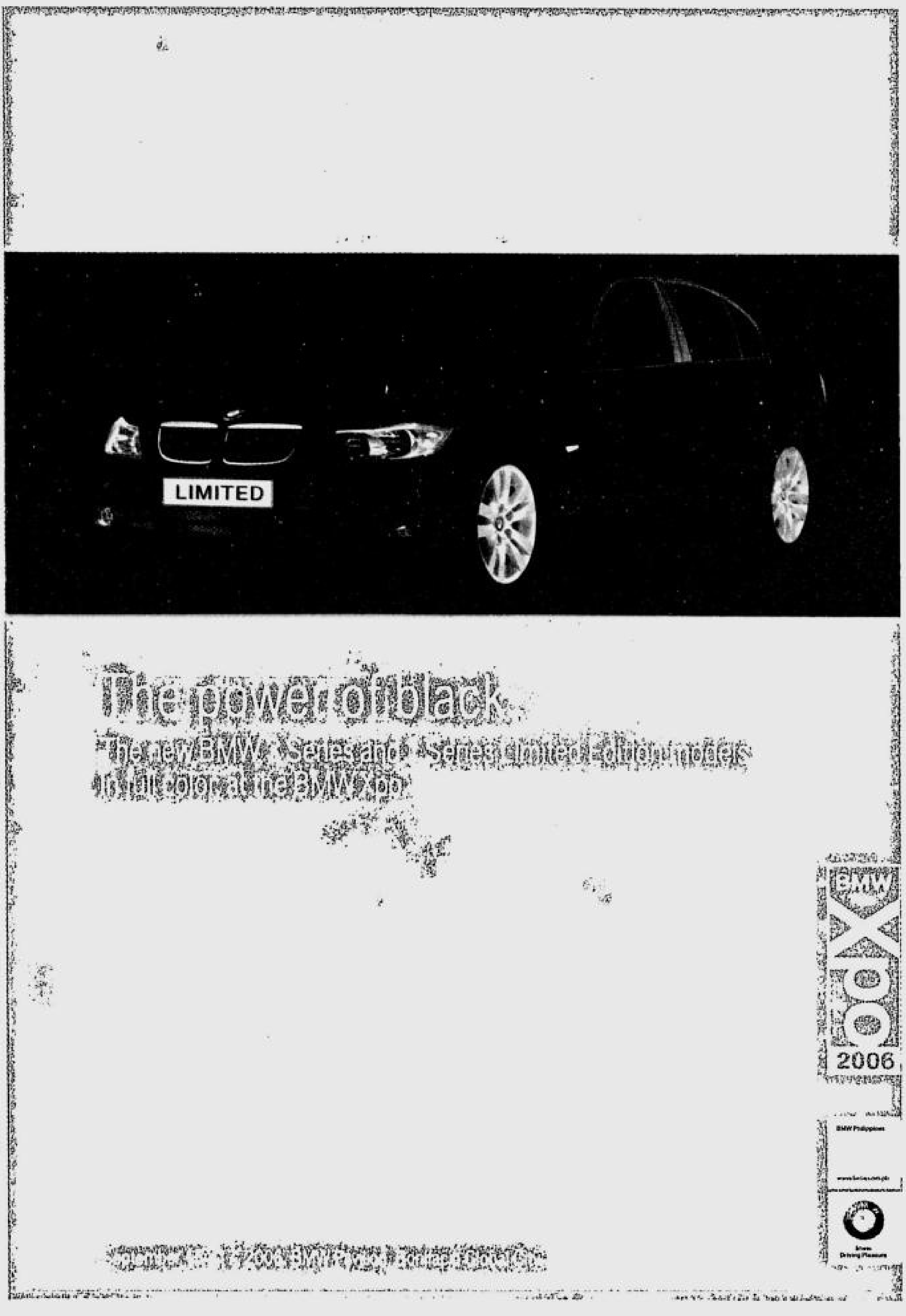
"Nido has invested significant resources in evaluating the subsurface data from the Galoc field," Nido deputy managing director Joanne Williams said. "This certification confirms the Galoc oil reserves as a significant and bankable asset to Nido, using the commonly used international standard."

According to Williams, GCA "is recognized around the world as one of the leading oil and gas industry reserves certifiers, and they are continuing their work to evaluate the upside potential of the Galoc field."

Based on the results of GCA's certification program, with Nido's shareholdings in the oil field, its net entitlement was pegged at 2 million barrels of proved recoverable oil, and 4.4 million barrels of proved and probable reserves.

Nido holds a 22.279-percent working interest in the field, which is operated by the Galoc Production Co.

The Galoc oil field, which is located in Block C of Service Contract 14 in the Northwest Palawan Basin, approximately 70 kilometers west of Culion Island, is expected to produce oil by the fourth quarter of 2007.



Get more value for your ₱

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates %
In Pesos	30 days to 3 years
100,000 - 499,999	4.500
500,000 - 999,999	5.250
1.0MM - 4.99MM	5.500
5.0MM - 9.99MM	5.750
10.0MM and up	6.000

Place your money in Time Deposit

* 1,2 or 3-year term placement offers monthly credit of interest.
** Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.

Open an account now at any PSBank branch!

PSBank Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK PTD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

Where you find the best.

JOB Market

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Call to readers

WE WANT TO COMPILE A READING LIST THAT WE hope will jumpstart the interest of Filipino boys in reading and convert them into readers for life.

E-mail us your pick of the best books, magazines and even comics for boys of all ages. Tell us briefly why you've selected each.

Send your list to books4boys@inquirer.com.ph or text 0918-3824061. Include name, address and daytime phone number.

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

No-sweat ways to burn more calories

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IF YOU LIVED 300 YEARS AGO, YOU would have no need for the suggestions in this article. Unless you were a king or queen with people to serve you on hand and foot, you would get enough physical activity just by going about your daily routine.

But, in the modern world, many people struggle to maintain a normal weight because they are not burning enough calories. We now hunt for food in supermarket aisles, have running water just by turning a knob, and earn a living by typing on a computer keyboard or talking on a phone.

It's getting to a point that working at a desk should be considered hazardous to people's health.

Time has also become a precious commodity. When can the average wage earner find the time to exercise at home or in the gym? But everyone can, consciously and purposely, find ways everyday to burn more calories without disrupting his/her work and family schedule.

A simple guiding principle, in the words of Frank Butterfield of the American Council on Exercise, is, "Sitting is better than lying down, standing is better than sitting, and walking is better than standing."

This was proven in a study that analyzed the daily movements of 10 lean and 10 obese subjects. The major difference between the two groups was that the obese group sat for 150 minutes more per day than the lean people.

This meant that the lean people burned 350 calories more per day than their fatter peers. That is like doing one hour's worth of aerobic exercise every day.

Tips

Here are some no-sweat suggestions to burn more calories:

When talking on your cordless phone or cell phone, walk around instead of sitting down. You'll burn 35-50 calories in 10 minutes.

If you sit down while you watch television, you burn 72 calories an hour, but if you do light housework while you are watching, you can burn 144-216 calories.

If you do exercises like abdominal crunches and leg lifts during the commercial breaks, you will tone your muscles and burn about 65 calories in one hour (assuming there are 16 minutes worth of ads in a one-hour TV show).

Instead of parking your car or being dropped off in the mall entrance closest to where you want to go, do the opposite. Enter through the farthest entrance from your target.

Even if you just walk at a strolling pace, you will burn 3.5 calories for every additional minute it takes you to get to and from your destination. That may not seem like much, but if you can accumulate an hour's worth of strolling throughout the day, you can burn an extra 206 calories daily. If you walk at a fast pace, you can increase this to 270-360 calories per hour.

By taking the stairs instead of the elevator, you burn eight calories a minute. If you live in a multi-level house or work in a building, take advantage and use the stairs as often as possible. Not only will you have stronger and firmer leg muscles, you can burn as many calories as doing a 30-minute step aerobics or kickboxing.

And even if you exercise regularly, a "burn-'em-up active lifestyle is more effective than just exercise alone" to lose weight or maintain your weight, according to nutritionist Gay Riley of NetNutritionist.com.

Riley compared the calorie difference between a person who worked out but was sedentary the rest of the day and a person who also worked out but was active the rest of the day.

In an eight-hour period, the sedentary exerciser burned 914 calories while the active exerciser burned 1,436 calories. The active exerciser burned the additional calories by taking the stairs, walking to do errands, housework, and watched less TV.

* * *

Fitness Network Philippines (formerly AFPP) will hold its National Fitness Convention "Global Fitness Concepts" Sept. 22-24. Seven international presenters will share the latest in group exercise, personal training, and fitness management. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202. E-mail convention@fitnessphilippines.org or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org.

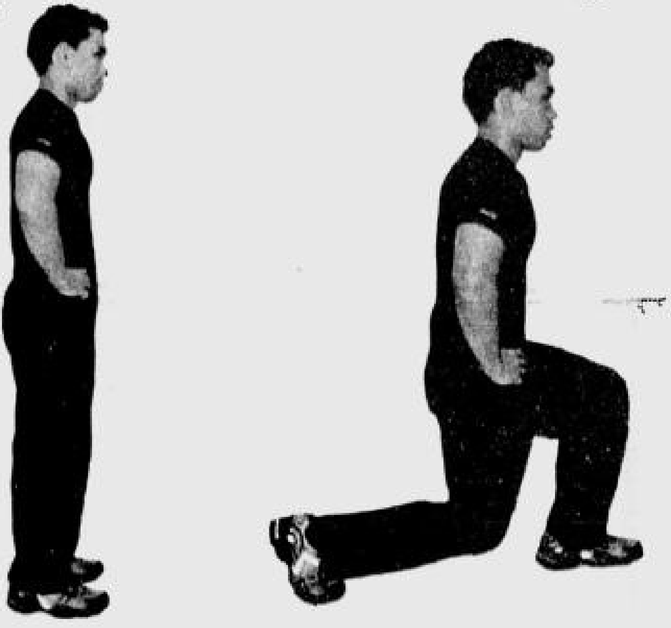
The Society for Adolescent Medicine of the Philippines will hold its 4th Biennial Convention Sept. 20-21 at the Century Park. Theme is "Defining the Vision for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing." Issues to be tackled are reproductive health, medico-legal issues, school health (ADHD), nutrition and exercise, and mental health. Call 0918-5647032 or 9246601 local 274.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward lunge



STRENGTHENS THE BUTTOCKS, hamstrings and quadriceps (front of the thigh). This exercise is challenging because all the weight is placed on one leg. It also requires balance.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your feet apart and hands on your hips.
2. Lunge backwards with your right leg.
3. Come back to the starting position by contracting the muscles in your left leg.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions. Rest. Do the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Avoid bringing the knee past the toes as you lunge backwards.
2. Do not focus on how low towards the floor you should bring the knee of the lunging leg. Instead focus on keeping your balance.
3. The weight of your body should be kept over the supporting leg. Use the lunging leg simply for balance by touching the floor only with the balls of the foot.

Repetitions:

10 repetitions per leg

No time for...

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IN AN INFORMAL SURVEY I PERSONALLY conducted for a few months, I asked people to fill in the blanks and finish the sentence "No time for..." to describe their lifestyle.

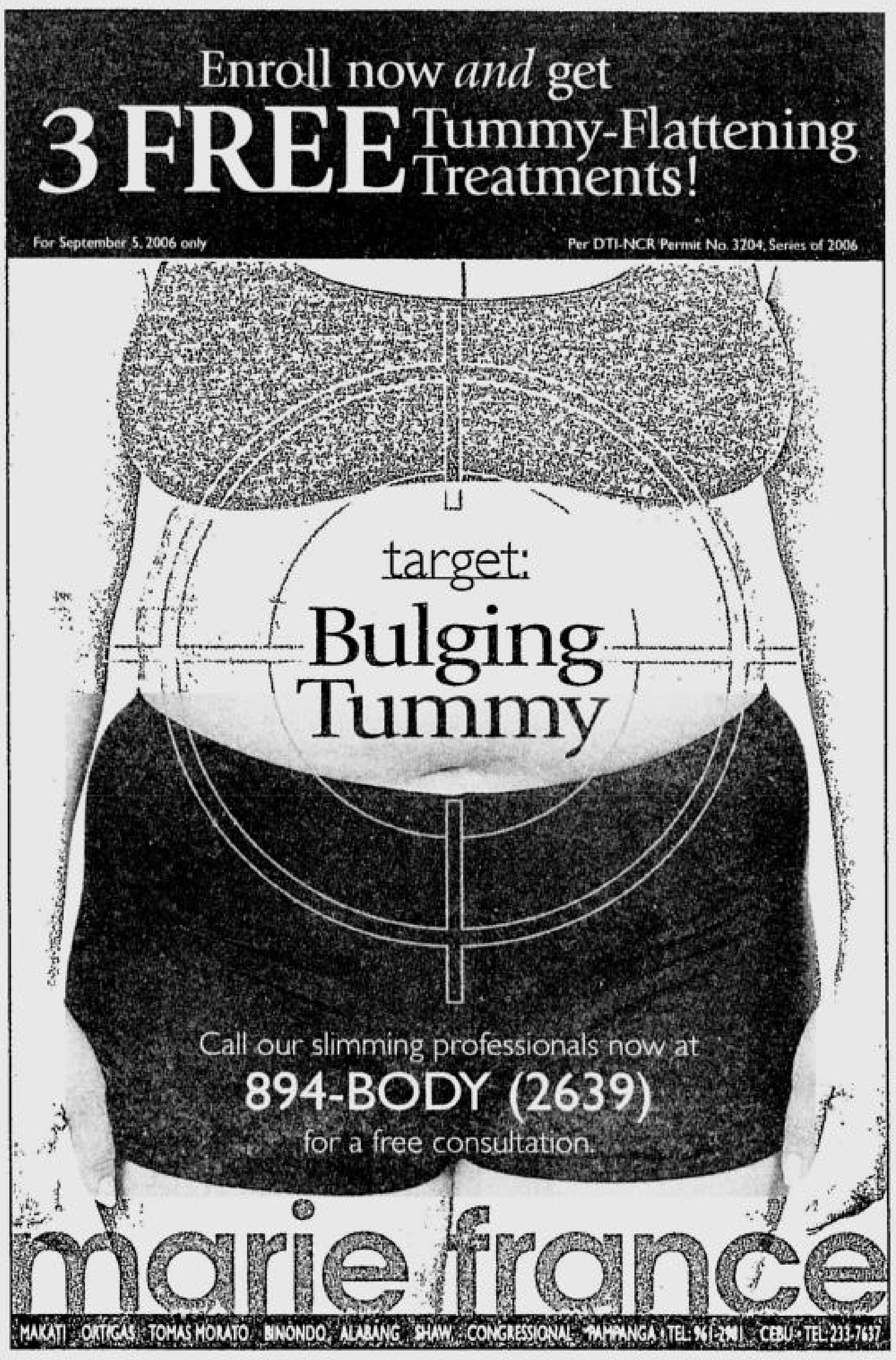
These are what we learned:

1. Breakfast: Most people skip breakfast. Whether by choice or circumstance, this meal is often overlooked, neglected or abused. Professionals, in general, consider a cup of coffee breakfast. Nutritionists say it does not provide you the necessary nutrients to start your day properly.

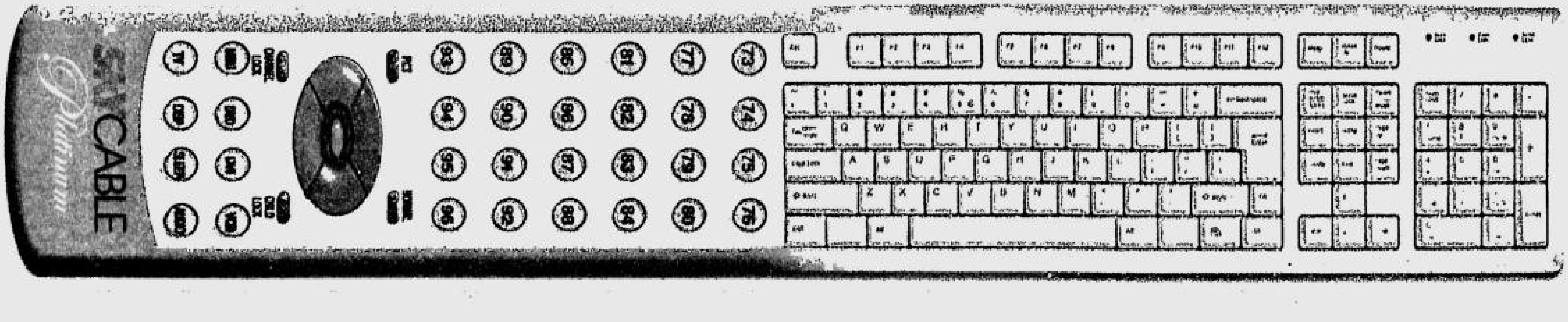
Your body (especially the brain) depends on food for energy. Try to have at least a piece of toast, some fruit and an egg. Having only caffeine as your source of fuel, in the end may prove hazardous to your health.

2. Exercise: People use work, whether in the office or household, as the primary excuse for not exercising. Studies have shown that a person who does not have any exercise is more prone to illness, fatigue, mood swings. He/she will show early signs of aging. Do set aside at least 30 minutes a day for a moderate workout whether walking, jogging, dancing, etc.

NO TIME/ C3



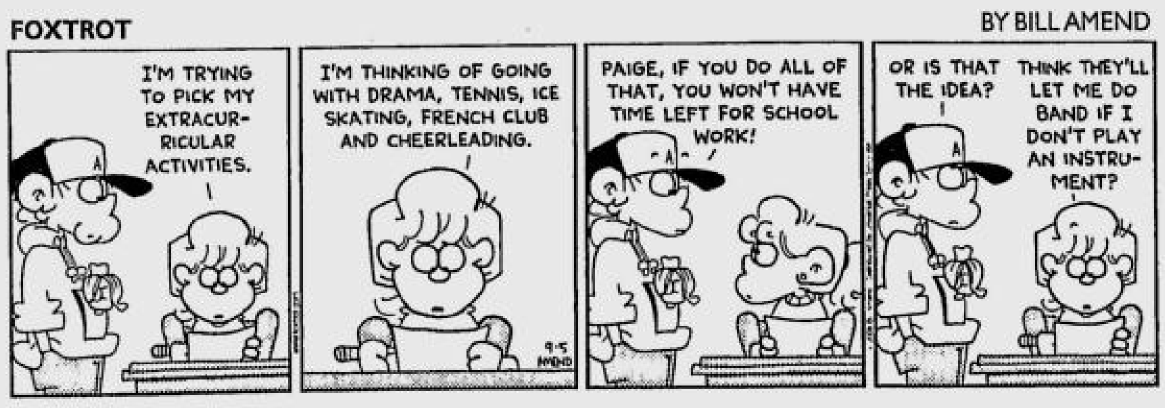
Enroll now *and* get
3 FREE Tummy-Flattening Treatments!
For September 5, 2006 only
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3204, Series of 2006
target:
Bulging Tummy
Call our slimming professionals now at
894-BODY (2639)
for a free consultation.
marie france
MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA TEL 961-2981 CEBU TEL 233-7637



FREE
SKYCABLE zpdee broadband internet
JUST GET ANY 2 PACKS FROM SKYCABLE PLATINUM AND YOUR ZPDEE BROADBAND INTERNET IS FREE.*
Now, watch more of the channels you're looking for and blaze through your favorite webpages. All in a snap. Experience it now only from SkyCable. Sky's the limit.
CALL 631-0000 OR LOG ON TO WWW.SKYCABLE.COM
SkyCable Platinum and ZPDee available in selected areas in Metro Manila
*For 64kbps only. For higher bandwidths, you get 20%-30% discount. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2692 Series of 2006

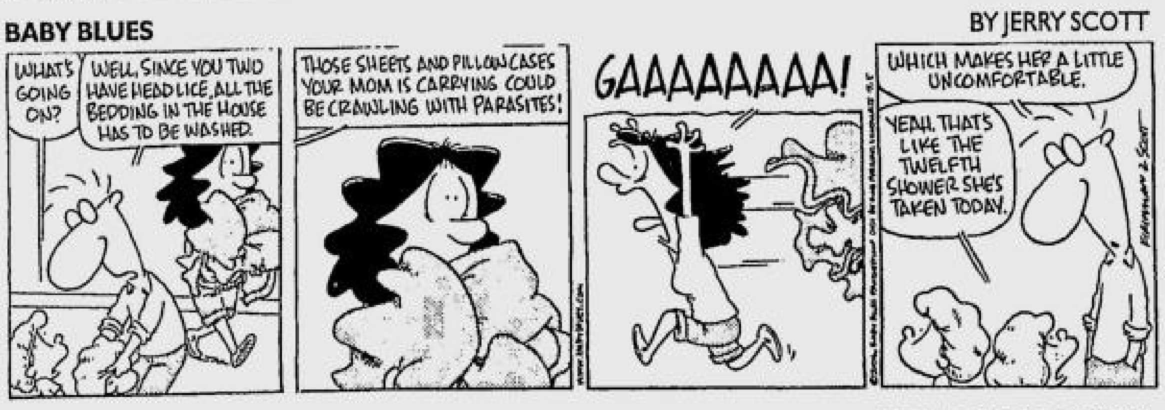
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'M TRYING TO PICK MY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.
I'M THINKING OF GOING WITH DRAMA, TENNIS, ICE SKATING, FRENCH CLUB AND CHEERLEADING.
9-5 AMEND
PAIGE, IF YOU DO ALL OF THAT, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME LEFT FOR SCHOOL WORK!
OR IS THAT THE IDEA?
THINK THEY'LL LET ME DO BAND IF I DON'T PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

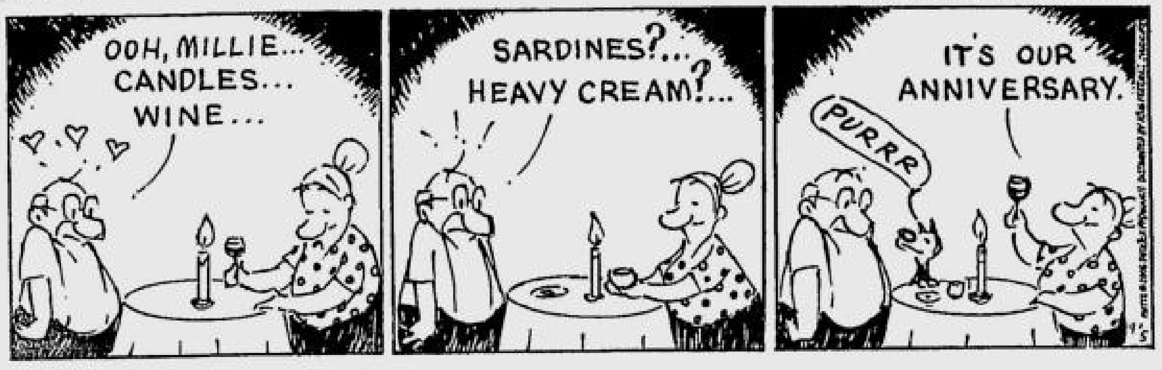
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, SINCE YOU TWO HAVE HEAD LICE, ALL THE BEDDING IN THE HOUSE HAS TO BE WASHED.
THOSE SHEETS AND PILLOWCASES YOUR MOM IS CARRYING COULD BE CRAWLING WITH PARASITES!
GAAAAAAAAA!
WHICH MAKES HER A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
YEAH. THAT'S LIKE THE TWELFTH SHOWER SHE'S TAKEN TODAY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

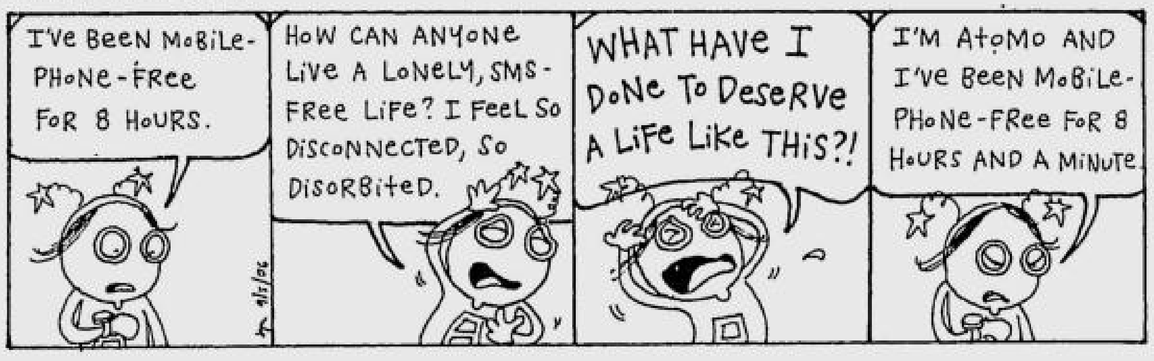
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOH, MILLIE... CANDLES... WINE...
SARDINES?... HEAVY CREAM?...
PURRR
IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY.

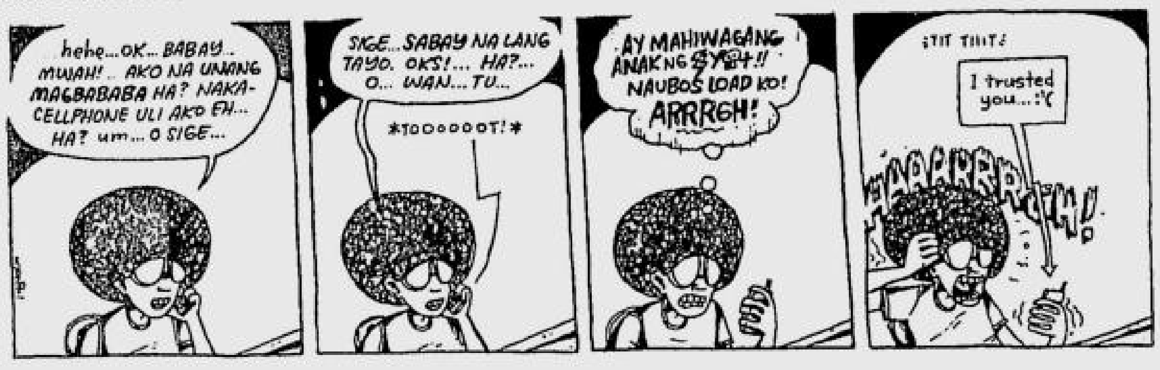
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'VE BEEN MOBILE-PHONE-FREE FOR 8 HOURS.
HOW CAN ANYONE LIVE A LONELY, SMS-FREE LIFE? I FEEL SO DISCONNECTED, SO DISORBITED.
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE A LIFE LIKE THIS?!
I'M ATOMO AND I'VE BEEN MOBILE-PHONE-FREE FOR 8 HOURS AND A MINUTE.

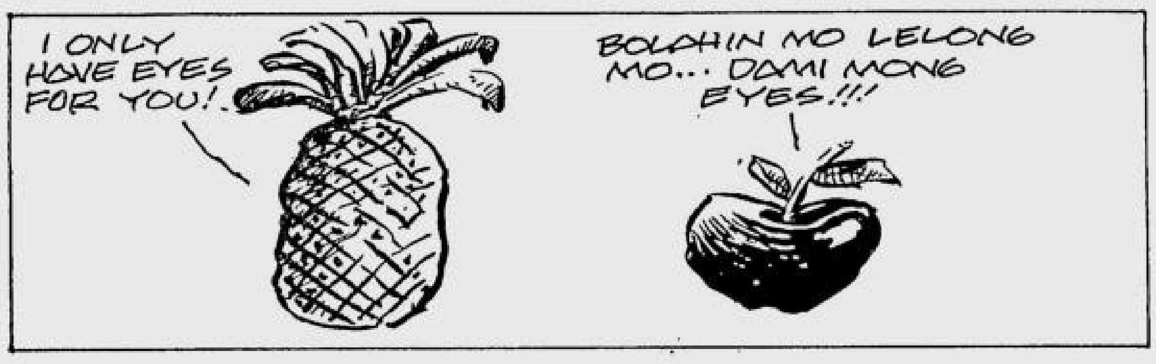
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe...OK... BABAY.. MUWAH!.. AKO NA UNANG MAGBABABA HA? NAKA-CELLPHONE ULI AKO EH... HA? um... O SIGE...
SIGE... SABAY NA LANG TAYO. OKS!... HA?... O... WAN... TU...
TOOOOOOT!
AY MAHIWAGANG ANAK NG $Y@+!! NAUBOS LOAD KO! ARRRGH!
¡TIT TIIT¡
I trusted you...:'(
AAARRRRGH!

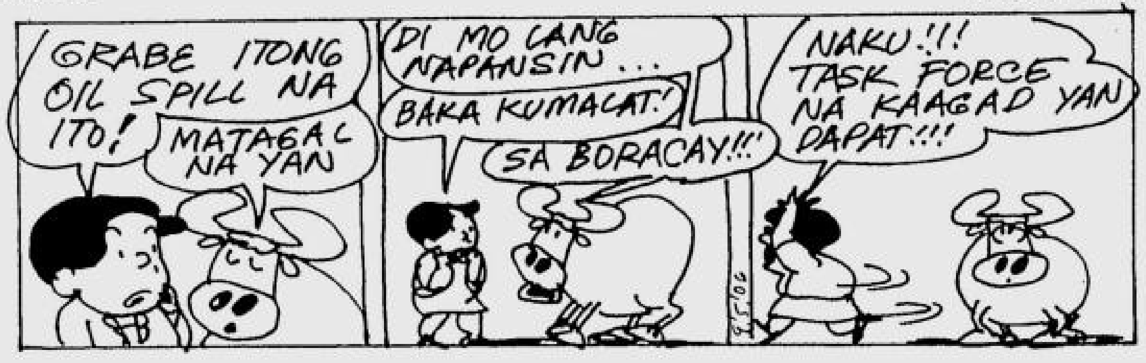
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU!
BOLAHIN MO LELONG MO... DAMI MONG EYES!!!

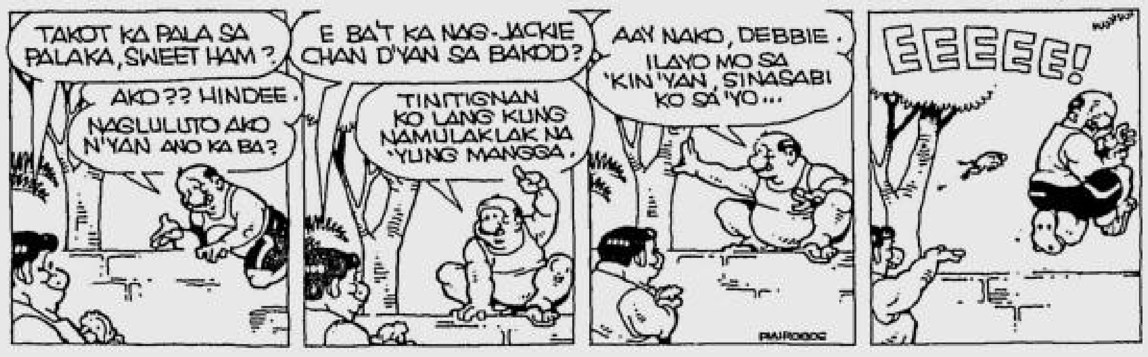
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE ITONG OIL SPILL NA ITO!
MATAGAL NA YAN
DI MO LANG NAPANSIN...
BAKA KUMALAT!
SA BORACAY!!!
NAKU!!! TASK FORCE NA KAAGAD YAN DAPAT!!!

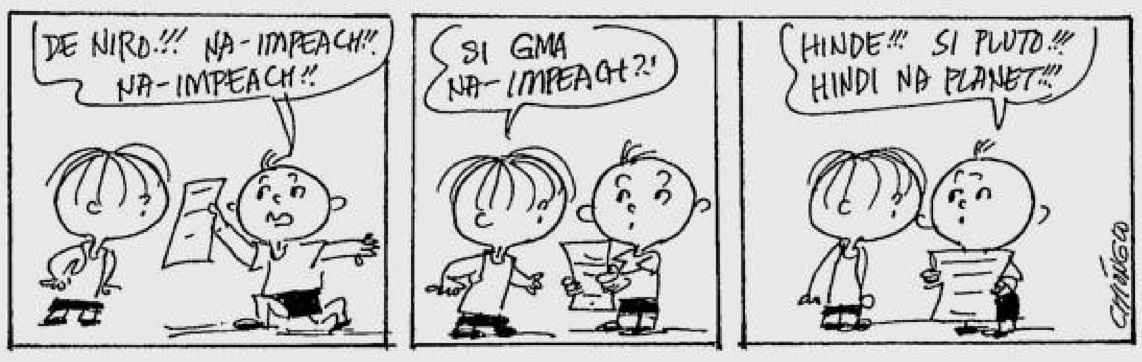
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAKOT KA PALA SA PALAKA, SWEET HAM?
AKO?? HINDEE. NAGLULUTO AKO N'YAN ANO KA BA?
E BA'T KA NAG-JACKIE CHAN D'YAN SA BAKOD?
TINITIGNAN KO LANG KUNG NAMULAKLAK NA 'YUNG MANGGA.
AAY NAKO, DEBBIE. ILAYO MO SA 'KIN 'YAN, SINASABI KO SA 'YO...
EEEEE!

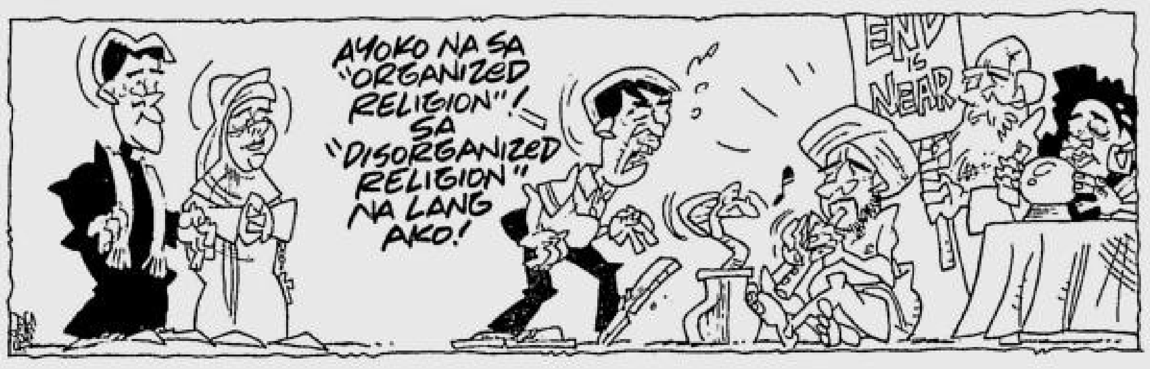
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO!!! NA-IMPEACH!!! NA-IMPEACH!!!
SI GMA NA-IMPEACH?!
HINDE!!! SI PLUTO!!! HINDI NA PLANET!!!
CHIONGLO

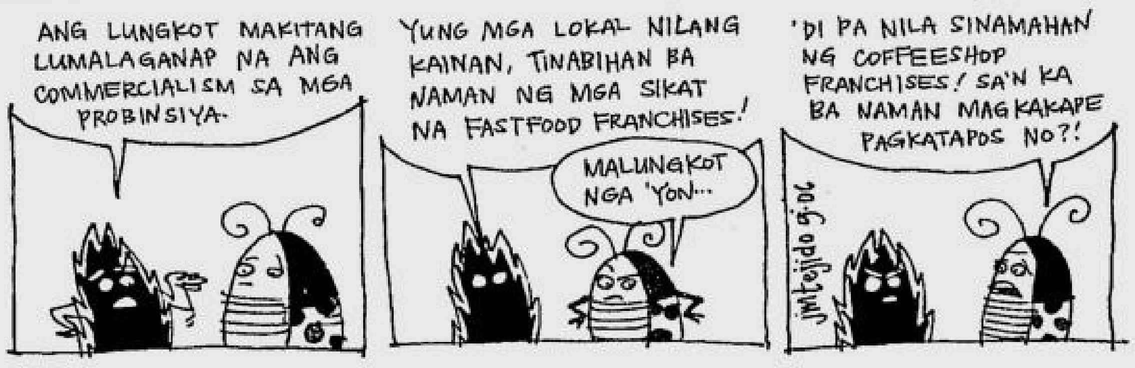
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AYOKO NA SA "ORGANIZED RELIGION"! SA "DISORGANIZED RELIGION" NA LANG AKO!
END IS NEAR

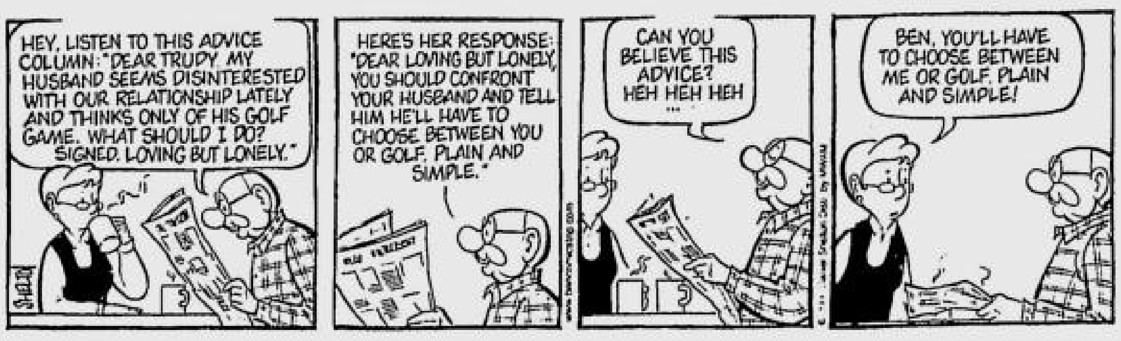
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

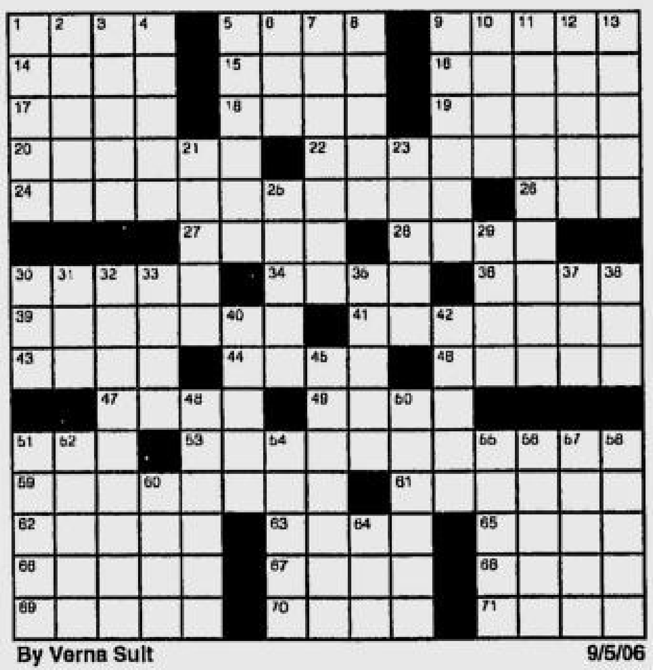

ANG LUNGKOT MAKITANG LUMALAGANAP NA ANG COMMERCIALISM SA MGA PROBINSIYA.
YUNG MGA LOKAL NILANG KAINAN, TINABIHAN BA NAMAN NG MGA SIKAT NA FASTFOOD FRANCHISES!
MALUNGKOT NGA 'YON...
'DI PA NILA SINAMAHAN NG COFFEESHOP FRANCHISES! SA'N KA BA NAMAN MAGKAKAPE PAGKATAPOS NO?!
jmtejido 9.06

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY, LISTEN TO THIS ADVICE COLUMN: "DEAR TRUDY, MY HUSBAND SEEMS DISINTERESTED WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP LATELY AND THINKS ONLY OF HIS GOLF GAME. WHAT SHOULD I DO? SIGNED, LOVING BUT LONELY."
HERE'S HER RESPONSE: "DEAR LOVING BUT LONELY, YOU SHOULD CONFRONT YOUR HUSBAND AND TELL HIM HE'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU OR GOLF. PLAIN AND SIMPLE."
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS ADVICE? HEH HEH HEH ...
BEN, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ME OR GOLF. PLAIN AND SIMPLE!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

9/5/06

ACROSS
1 Country mail rtes.
5 Sty dwellers
9 Dull
14 Writer Ambler
15 Spoken
16 Minneapolis suburb
17 Scorch
18 Mexican cash
19 Updated record release
20 Faculty position guarantee
22 Italian car
24 Feminine city on Lake Mich.?
26 Singer Brenda
27 __ ex machina
28 Early Peruvian
30 Sierra Nevada lake
34 Coating
36 Those in favor
39 End up equal
41 Northern Ireland capital
43 Have the nerve
44 Extinct birds
46 Positive replies
47 Smacking blow
49 Noggin
51 German exclamation
53 Self-centered rice-growing region?
59 Poster boy
61 Tell
62 Check recipient
63 Pilaf base
65 "Come __ my parlor..."
66 Quaking tree
67 Caesar's being
68 Bluish green
69 Enjoys a book
70 Cries of discovery
71 Biblical weed

DOWN
1 Breaks
2 Former FBI director Louis
3 Photographer Arbus
4 Use elbow grease
5 The Sailor Man
6 Dander
7 Fumigator's gear
8 Ashcan School painter John
9 After starter?
10 River to the Baltic
11 Manly mountains?
12 Bring together
13 Glenn Close movie
21 Cowpuncher contest
23 Sty dwellers
25 Relish
29 Bistro
30 Sen. Kennedy
31 Ms. Gardner
32 Girl's chocolate loc.?
33 Turow book
35 "Ghosts" playwright
37 Linguistic suffix
38 Ave. crossers
40 Called strikes, for short
42 Comic/panelist Paul
45 Put an end to
48 Somme port
50 Goes along with
51 How some stocks sell
52 Discontinue
54 Divided nation
55 Dis-lodge?
56 Kurt Weill's Lotte
57 Mongolian invader
58 Like a hermit
60 Require
64 Reb outfit

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	E	■	A	M	M	O	N	I	A	■	T	B	A
D	O	G	■	G	A	O	L	E	R	S	■	B	O	B
D	R	A	G	A	N	D	D	R	O	P	■	O	I	L
S	A	D	A	T	■	■	S	O	N	■	O	N	L	Y
■	■	■	T	H	E	O	■	■	I	N	R	E	■	■
D	U	K	E	A	N	D	D	U	C	H	E	S	S	■
E	N	E	■	S	T	E	E	P	■	L	O	T	T	A
F	L	E	D	■	O	S	I	E	R	■	S	E	E	M
T	E	P	E	E	■	S	O	N	I	A	■	A	R	E
■	D	U	C	K	S	A	N	D	D	R	A	K	E	S
■	■	P	R	E	T	■	■	S	E	C	T	■	■	■
P	K	W	Y	■	R	E	D	■	■	A	N	I	S	E
I	I	I	■	D	O	S	A	N	D	D	O	N	T	S
C	S	T	■	A	L	A	M	O	D	E	■	G	E	T
A	S	H	■	B	L	U	S	H	E	S	■	E	M	S

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

9/5/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have good business savvy and strong organizational skills. Others find you charming and friendly. You're prepared to work for what you want. In your youth, you're practical and analytical. In early adulthood, you love beauty and are eager to please. By your mid-40s, you become strongly self-reliant and independent. Work hard this year for rewards in 2007.

Birthdate of: Rose McGowan, actress; Freddie Mercury, singer; Loudon Wainwright III, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Disruptions to work are likely today. Expect power outages, computer failures and staff shortages. Why not look upon it as a way to shake up your day?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be vigilant with children today. This is an accident-prone day. Remember the advice of Goethe: Correction does much, but encouragement does more.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Minor accidents at home are possible today. Small appliances might break down; breakages can occur. Be patient talking to family members, especially parents. Hey, courtesy is free.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an accident-prone day. Be careful when driving, running, walking, etc. Also be careful of accidental comments and words popping out of your mouth. Look before you leap; think before you speak.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Keep track of your money today. You might find some; you might lose some. Count your change in stores. Do not discount wild, unusual money-making ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Wild, wacky Uranus opposes the Sun in your sign. This makes you feel restless, excited and a bit impatient. Be extra tolerant when talking to partners and close friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A restless energy pervades everything today. It might make you want to stir the pot a little to create a bit of excitement. Think twice before you do this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You don't want anyone telling you what to do today. You feel independent, to the point of being rebellious. Try to work with others as best you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a very poor day for confrontation with authority figures - teachers, parents, bosses and the police. Don't go looking for a fight!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Matters related to publishing, the media, travel and higher education will be disrupted today. Just go with the flow. Expect a few surprises. You might receive unexpected news from afar, or you could meet someone unusual from another culture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Take extra care with your responsibilities for others or their possessions. Something out of the blue could sideswipe your plans. Expect the unexpected.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with partners and close friends today. You need these people in your life. Don't act like they're in your hair. Be appreciative and accommodating. Never take loved ones for granted.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	3							
			6		2	9		3
	8	7	9			5		
	6					2	9	
			2		1			
	9	8					4	
		5			6	8	7	
7		9	4		3			
							2	

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

Difficulty Level ★★

9/05

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	9	6	8	7	3	5	1
5	7	8	9	3	1	6	2	4
3	6	1	2	5	4	9	8	7
8	3	5	7	1	9	2	4	6
4	9	7	8	2	6	1	3	5
1	2	6	3	4	5	7	9	8
6	5	3	1	9	8	4	7	2
9	1	4	5	7	2	8	6	3
7	8	2	4	6	3	5	1	9

Difficulty Level ★

9/04

'Filipinizing' osteoporosis

By Linda B. Bolido

IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO REINvent the wheel but that does not mean adjustments cannot be made to make it more suitable for the conditions where it will be used.

So, while the Philippines has to rely on affluent countries to develop medicines for many diseases, there is no reason why it cannot draw up support regimen adapted to local needs to maximize the benefits of those treatments.

That is what Roche (Philippines) Inc. is hoping to accomplish with its Bone Health and Wellness Center that opened recently in its compound on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

While the facility was set up primarily to support the pharmaceutical firm's campaign for bone health, it is also designed to gather data that will help create a "Filipino" image of the problem of osteoporosis or brittle bones.

Joe Marie L. Sy, Roche marketing director, says, in the management of osteoporosis, data used are derived mainly from western studies.

While the data have proven adequate, it is hoped that the center's research findings will result in further improvement in the management of osteoporosis in the Philippines by "customizing" therapy to the actual needs of Filipinos.

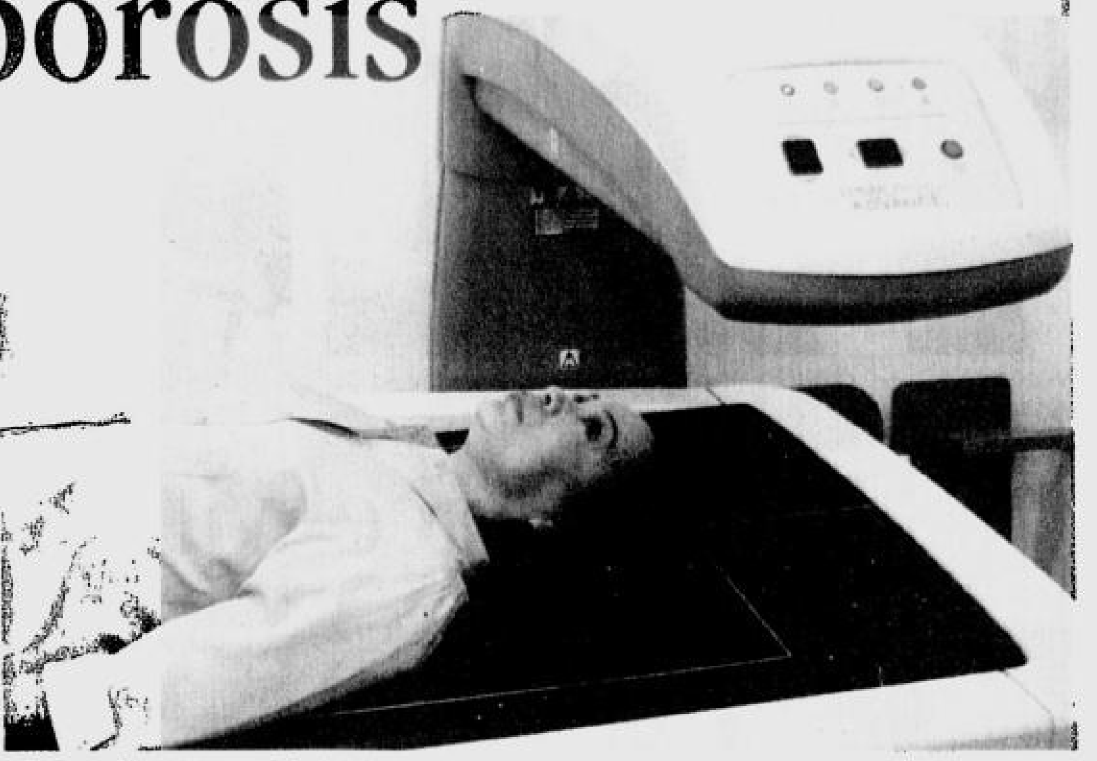
Osteoporosis is a condition that makes people vulnerable to fractures or broken bones that can lead to disability or even death. Menopausal women and people deficient in the mineral calcium are most at risk from osteoporosis.

Support

Equipped with the state-of-the-art DEXA (dual energy X-ray absorpsiometry) and the peripheral bone test machine (Achilles Insight Ultrasonometer), both from the GE Company, the center is primarily intended to provide support to patients using Roche's once-monthly anti-osteoporosis formulation, ibandronic acid (brand name Bonviva).

The center will complement Roche's BonDiva Women's Campaign for Bone Health. In addition to the machines, the center will make available the latest literature on bone health and osteoporosis treatment. Experts will also be around to address clients' concerns and offer advice.

Roche's Bone Center is designed to gather data that will help create a 'Filipino' image of the debilitating disease



FORMER Miss Universe Gloria Diaz undergoes a bone density test.

FORMALLY opening the center are Gloria Diaz, BonDiva endorser; Dr. Tito Torralba of UST Hospital, nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta, and Joey Sy, Roche marketing director

For the research work, Roche is collaborating with the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines (OSP).

Though there is no cure for osteoporosis, sufferers can lead a fairly normal life with the right management program. Those who do not have the problem yet can learn how to prevent the debilitating bone disorder.

The need to collect, country-specific or even merely Asia-specific-baseline data is increasingly felt in many fields of medical specialization.

Most data currently in use as bases for developing treatment regimen or a therapy program are based on findings in western countries.

But now experts are beginning to recognize that genetic, cultural and other factors may result in significant differences in medical/health profiles. As a result, even body mass indices and growth rates, also originally set using western data, are being calibrated to take into account significant factors specific to Asians or other races.

Free tests

At the Roche Bone Health and Wellness Center, osteoporosis patients, especially those prescribed ibandronic acid, can undergo free bone density tests with the use of the peripheral machine, the ultrasonometer.

Patients will have to be referred by their attending physicians, primarily members of OSP. Results of the tests are expected to help doctors draw up a more appropriate therapeutic program to improve bone health and complement the medication.

The DEXA machine will be mainly a tool for research and clinical trials on osteoporosis. The first such machine in the Philippines and possibly in Asia, the equipment is calibrated for Filipino patients and will hopefully yield data to give experts a better profile of osteoporosis in the local population.

Access to the center will be through referrals. Sy said patients must be referred by OSP members to avail of the center's facilities.

For more information on osteoporosis, you can access OSP's website, www.osteofound.org, and for the BonDiva network and the Roche center call the hotline, 8971234, or log on to www.bondiva.com.ph.

Everybody is a psychic

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE POPUlation is psychic?"

My answer? One hundred percent! It is my belief that everybody is a psychic.

You see, "psychic" comes from the Greek word "psyche", which means either "mind" or "soul." So anybody with a mind or a soul is psychic.

Although it is true that everybody is psychic, it does not mean that everybody manifests the power equally well. Some are better at it than others.

But this is the same with any other natural ability. For example, everybody can paint or sing. But some are better painters and singers than others.

Unfortunately, in the Philippines, psychic has come to be associated with fortune-telling. So, when a person is described as a psychic, it is taken to mean that he/she can tell the future.

But there are so many manifestations of psychic abilities that do not involve telling the future. For example, there is levitation, telepathy, psychometry, telekinesis, psychic healing, remote viewing, etc. One can be a good psychic without being a fortune teller.

"Is levitation true?"

Levitation is defined as the "ability or power to reverse the polarity of your magnetism in relation to earth and therefore rise above ground, with no visible means of support. Defined this way, levitation is not against natural law but, in fact, follows it. Physics' Law of Magnetism states, "Like poles repel each other; opposite poles attract each other."

"In your opinion, who is the greatest psychic in history?"

Jesus Christ is the greatest psychic who ever lived on earth. So far, I have not found any written record of anybody who has duplicated, or at least approximated, what he did, despite the fact that he said, "All the works I have done you can do, and much more than these."

Among the many psychic feats Jesus demonstrated were: telepathy (when he read or knew man's heart); precognitive (when he told the disciples one of them would betray him, and when he told Peter, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times"); levitation (when he walked on water); materialization (when he multiplied five loaves of bread to feed 5,000 people); psychic healing (when he healed the centurion's daughter though he was far from her); and telekinesis (when he cursed a fig tree and it wilted).

"Are there dangers in ghost- hunting?"

Yes, if one is not prepared or properly trained for such an activity. You see, spirits that appear to people are usually the low, negative or earthbound. A person can get sick, have accidents or be possessed if he/she encounters a negative or evil spirit. Young people are especially prone to possession. It is best to leave such things alone. Ghost-hunting is not a game. One may encounter real dangers in this type of activity.

"What is the astral plane?"

This is difficult to explain. It is not a physical plane or space. It belongs to the non-material universe. Albert Einstein postulated a fourth dimension or plane that he called "time-space." It is somewhat, but not exactly, the same as this.

A human being has several dimensions or planes of existence. The physical is one plane, another is the emotional, then mental, astral and spiritual. Mystics and psychics say there are seven planes of existence. The astral plane is only one of them. We have an astral body that can detach itself from the physical body and travel consciously in the astral plane. But within the astral, there are seven subplanes so this is not an easy concept to understand. Some people deny the existence of the astral plane. They are entitled to their own opinion.

"What is the electronic voice phenomenon? Is this true?"

Electronic voice phenomenon (EVP) is a process of capturing the voice of discarnate spirit by means of an electronic device such as an audio tape recording machine.

One of the pioneers in this study was a Latvian psychologist named Constantine Raudive. He discovered that by keeping a tape recorder running in front of a radio, the dial positioned between two stations' frequencies, he could hear voices of the dead when the tape was played back. Mostly they were unknown entities. But later he got voices of dead relatives and well-known personalities on the tape recorder.

Much later, another researcher, George Meek, an American, developed a device to capture voices of the dead and he called it the Spiricom.

Note: Upon my return from India, I will be conducting two seminars in Southern Philippines, namely Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation, Oct. 22 in Cagayan de Oro (contact Julie at 0917-7061175 and Melissa at 0917-7120253); and the Inner Mind Development seminar, Oct. 28-29 in Cebu City (contact Melissa at 0917-7120253).

WORK OF ART
National Artist Napoleon Abueva created a relief graduation certificate for 500 graduates of the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS) 2006 classes. The special certificate of fiberglass marks BLSS' 50th anniversary. Abueva, a personal friend of the Lozadas, handcrafted each certificate. From left: Anthony Lozada, managing director-South; Bert Lozada, president/CEO; Abueva; Zenas Lozada, comptroller; and Angelo Lozada, managing director-North.

No time for...

From page C1

3. The rest room: Many habitually postpone their trip to the toilet, holding their bladders because of deadlines, phone calls, meetings, etc. These people may encounter problems sooner or later. The lucky ones may only contract urinary tract infection. The unlucky ones can suffer more complicated problems like kidney stones, etc.

Do not ignore the need to pass urine. Your body needs to release waste and toxins. So the more you hold it, the longer your body is exposed to pollution.

4. Breathing: The one thing you should not deprive yourself of—long, slow, deep breaths. Do you know that the more often you take deep breaths, the calmer you will feel and the more recharged you can be in body, mind and spirit? So, go on, take that deep breath now.

Banish the idea "I don't have time to breathe." Instead, do the opposite—breathe!

5. Rest: This is the problem with the A-type personality—the one who cannot keep still, the one who looks for more work even after the work is already done. Without rest your body and mind are on overdrive. Eventually, there will be a breakdown, sometime, somewhere. Before this happens, try to rest. Respect it. Think of it as something you owe yourself.

6. Break: It is called break time because that is exactly what it is—time to break your routine or ritual and simply relax for a while. Those who allow themselves a break have greater stamina and endurance than those who pass up their chance to relax.

7. Smile: Most people caught up in their work do not find it necessary to smile at others. Contained in their own world, they are constantly absorbed in their inner talk and unconcerned about the world outside. What happens if you smile at the gas attendant you normally ignore or the janitor who cleans your office? Instead of a grunt or smirk try a sunny smile, and see the joy you bring to others.

8. Joy: Delaying gratification may be a form of sacrifice for some, but may seem like messing up life itself to others. What is the point of denying yourself what your heart truly feels is right? Is this not betraying the voice from your heart?

You can try to silence your heart but it will speak to you in many ways—through the sunset, the gentle fall of rain, the laughter of friends. Each new day tells you that life is meant to be lived in the present that is why it is called present—it's a gift.

So embrace each new day with an open heart, one that is unafraid to let life in.

9. Love: Driven by earthy concerns like status, money and power, we bury love deep within the confines of neglect. A heart that is loving will never lose its way. Driven by love, healing and completion are guaranteed. Love is as close to prayer as prayer is to heaven.

10. Gratitude: They say if you give thanks for your blessings, they will never leave you—instead they will grow in abundance especially if you share what you have. Give thanks!

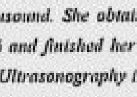
Love and light!

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the surgical or invasive methods of family planning available?

Surgical or invasive methods of family planning or "sterilization" per se involve two major procedures: female sterilization which is popularly known as "tubal ligation" that involves cutting or occluding of the fallopian tubes to prevent fertilization and for male its called "vasectomy" which entails the cutting of the vas deferens to prevent passage of semen to the tubes and remains to be unpopular in the Philippines up to now. Sterilization procedures become of great importance if : 1) the wife is over 30 years of age 2) the couple has been married for more than ten years 3) the couple desires no additional children in the family. Unlike the other non-surgical methods of contraception like the use of oral contraceptive pills, condoms, intrauterine device (IUD) and diaphragm, sterilization may be irreversible. Although there are attempts of surgeons to reanastomose or reverse after vasectomy or tubal ligation, such reconstructive surgery over the years was proven to be more difficult and has resulted to varied success rates. Proper counseling is done before any such procedure is undertaken. Patients and their spouses are informed of the possibility of risks for bleeding, hematomas, and most importantly the chances of irreversibility. Resulting effects like loss of libido, mood changes, irritability, infections and dryness, and weight gain are only a few of the common misconceptions/fallacies which remain unproven by science.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Alexandra C. Cruz. She specializes in Obstetrics-Gynecology with further training on OBGYN Ultrasound. She obtained her medicine course from the UERMMMC in 1996 and finished her specialty course in Obstetrics-Gynecology in 2004 and Ultrasonography in 2005. She is a member of the Philippine Obstetrics Gynecology Society (POGS) and a fellow of the Philippine Society of Ultrasound in OBGYN. MEDICARD members may avail of her consultation services at Capitol Medical Center during Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9am to 12noon and Saturdays 1pm-5pm at room 512.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible] Makati City 1227
Trunkline: [illegible] Fax No.: [illegible] Text: [illegible] (Globe & Touch [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible] Website: www.medicardphils.com

WOMEN achievers: Cristine Lim with Pricilla Chan, Shera Chan Tiu and Rinbee Chan Lao

MOI; Ben Chan; architect Miguel Pastor; Liza Ilarde Cuenca, editor in chief of Jetset magazine; and Mons Romulo Tantoco

CES Evangelista, Neil Deguia, Antonio Aquitania, Lucky Rosales and Maggie Wilson

Face to face with a top Korean

HOTSHOTS at The Face Shop opening: Virgilio Lim, president of Suyen Corp.; Ha Byung Kyoo, first secretary of the South Korean Embassy; Julie Kim, GM of Korea's The Face Shop global offices; brilliant Ben Chan; and Jung Kang, consul of the South Korean Embassy

ABS-CBN'S Philip Cu-Unjieng and Bench advertising manager Jojo Liamzon

HANDSOME men: Richard Gomez and Rep. Miles Roces

LUZ Siguion-Reyna and Nenita Lim

BETTINA Carlos and Rambo Nuñez

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

HEY, *PALANGGAS*, IT HAS finally landed on our shores—Korea's No. 1 cosmetic store, simply named The Face Shop.

The launch's theme reflected "the brand's natural heritage and aspirations." During the opening, *moi* was met by tons of celebrities and VIPs.

Once inside the cool shop, it didn't take long before *moi* was treated to an awesome natural feast that was a total sensory experience. I was guided by the man of the hour, multifaceted business magnate with the golden touch **Ben Chan**. But who else, *palanggas*?

The front of the store in Glorietta 3 was transformed into a Zen-like tranquil garden, the sleek white walls covered with lush green hedges. Eight-foot neem trees in giant clay pots, combined with clean, crisp flower arrangements, were the perfect accents to complete the relaxed, natural environment.

The unique and fun highlight of the launch was the traditional Korean rice cake-cutting ceremony. The pristine white rice cake was topped with raisins that formed the brand's initials and a green candle to symbolize wealth and prosperity.

Moi had a bite or two of the rice cake "for good luck," *palanggas*.

The women were treated by a team of professionals to nail color and nail art application. The Face Shop offers 55 deliciously fashionable shades of quick-drying nail polish.

We were given samples of The Face Shop's hot natural, cool handmade soaps of pure glycerin in aloe, grape, rice, orange and yogurt variants, *palanggas*.

The facial mask station provided the ultimate sensual treat, like the Collagen and Caviar mask sheets, infused with the different awesome essences of rose, lemon and eucalyptus. The essences provide total relaxation and rejuvenation for the skin and the olfactory senses. They're so cool, *palanggas*.

Check the complete natural experience that only the hottest brand from Korea, The Face Shop, could provide, *palanggas*.

'Greek' spa

Did you notice that spas have been sprouting like mushrooms? The latest to open is The Spa at The Podium, at the fifth floor of the chic mall in the business district of Ortigas, *palanggas*.

Invitees were transported to magnificent Greece, complete with, would you believe, Hellenic-inspired dishes. Doing the unveiling were gorgeous eye-catchers: television host **Lucy Torres-Gomez** and The Spa endorser, TV's **Angel Aquino**.

Giving the invitees the grand tour were executive manager **Richard Uy**, sales and marketing manager **Rita Galila Marcos**, and branch manager **Aimee Bulay**.

The well-designed artistic interior was the work of brilliant interior designer, fashion plate **Ivy Almario**, and architect **Francis Ong**.

For body massages, check out the Volcanic Rock, Twin or Thai massages. Get relief from head and shoulder aches with the Aromascalp and Shoulder massage; or the Moor Spa Hair and Scalp treatment, among others, *palanggas*.

And for most of us in the asphalt jungle on the lookout for the best facial, foot and body care treatments, we can't go wrong with the Fango Mud Facial, Detoxifying Body Wrap, or the Oriental foot therapy, *palanggas*.

The opening of this new branch is part of The Spa's expansion plans this year, as it celebrates its 10th anniversary in the health and fitness business. Next on its list is "The Fort, opening very, very soon," said Rita M.

Making sure the launch was a success was top events manager **Marilen Nuñez** of Lenplus Inc., no less, *palanggas*.

The Spa's other branches are in Acropolis, Alabang, Bel-Air Makati, Greenbelt 1 and The Podium. Visit its website, www.thespa.com.ph, or e-mail thespa@thespa.com.ph.

Hot celebrator

My favorite pepperoni and night owl, **Pepper Teehankee**, celebrated another hectic year of his life on the fast lane, *palanggas*, at the swinging, upscale Nuvo. Over a hundred invitees had a blast as they circulated endlessly with other beautiful people like them.

Playing host were some of Pepper's pals, like king of the night life, Citrus' and Nuvo's **Louie Ysmael**—but who else—and Asian Spirit's brilliant chair, banker **Noel Oñate**, no less.

Pepper has not celebrated his birthday in Manille for the past five years, choosing to mark the day abroad, with some of his tons of pals scattered around the globe, *palanggas*.

For champagne drinkers, there was my top-of-the-line bubbly, Clicquot, *naturellement*, and a couple of bottles of Moet & Chandon, plus a case of Montes Merlot and Macallan single malt, all thanks to our buddy Noel Oñate.

Endlessly flowing Absolut Blue and the new Absolut Raspberri were the perfect mixers. Premier Wines and Spirits gave Pepper bottles of Skyy Vodka, Alize Red, Alize Gold, Nordic Butterscotch Schnapps and my favorite Ketel One vodka from Holland, putting everyone in the highest spirits.

We all were, dahlings. The bash lasted way after the crowing of the roosters, *palanggas*.

It was great seeing Pepper's pals partying as they celebrated his birthday in Manille.

Hey, looking forward to his next birthday, that is, if Pepper is in town, *n'est ce pas* (as in, *di bala*)?

DIETHER Ocampo

BENCH'S Bryan Lim, AC Ocampo, Myrna Fernandez

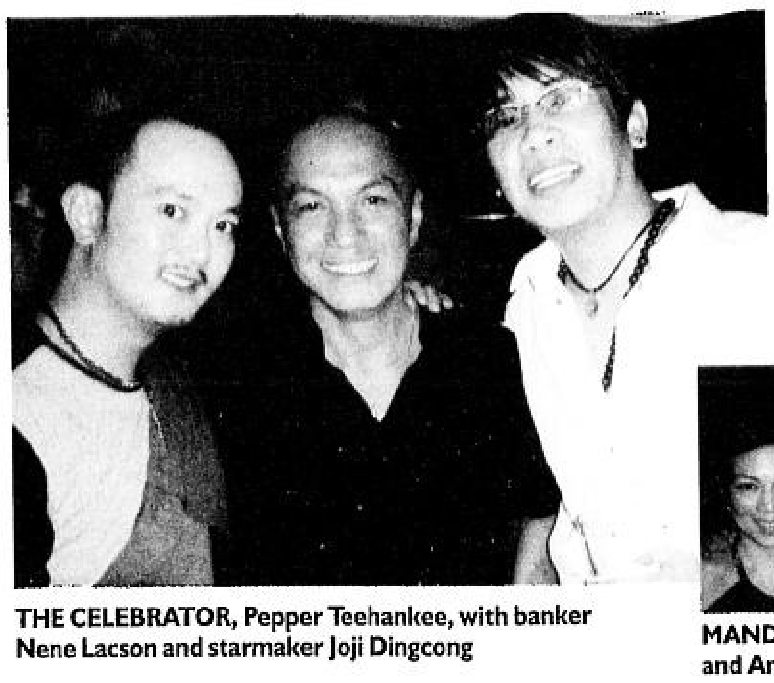
THEY love The Face Shop: Marica Calica, Frances Jules Amper and Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez

MARISSA Cojuangco, Carla Tengco, Sigalit Djemal, Linda Oledan and Bibing Montelibano Villanueva

FRANCIS Flores, AJ Joes, Marcel Crespo and Noel Oñate

JING Monis, *moi*, Rissa Mananquil Samson

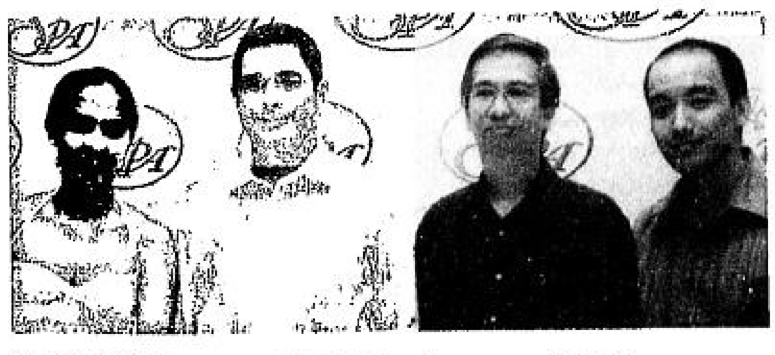
THE SPA executive manager Richard Uy, with special guests Lucy Torres Gomez and image model Angel Aquino



THE CELEBRATOR, Pepper Teehankee, with banker Nene Lacson and starmaker Joji Dingcong

CHRISTOPHE Lejeune and Karen Santos

MANDY de la Rama-Santos, Celine Lopez and Anton San Diego



THE SPA'S Iya Jimenez, The Podium's Christian Mathay, SM's Robert Decena and The Podium's Mark Sta. Ana

ST MUSIC World's Lilybeth Caisip and Chong Seng Huat, with The Spa's Rita Marcos

DARYL Tan; The Spa's architect, Francis Ong; and Mabel Torres

MALU Gamboa, Leica Carpo and Katrina Goulbourn-Feist

CECILLE Reynoso

KONKOY Tuason, Josephine Knox and Louie Ysmael

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Dark horse crashes out

RYAN Star

By Fran Katigbak

AMID BOOS AND HOWLS from a shocked studio audience, Ryan Star bowed out of "Rock Star: Supernova" on last week's elimination night.

The 28-year-old rocker had been the dark horse in the reality TV search for Supernova's front man.

Three rock idols are behind the new band—guitarist Gilby Clarke from Guns N' Roses, bassist Jason Newsted from Metallica and drummer Tommy Lee from Motley Crew.

Ryan had delivered memorable performances on the show, including the debut of his original song "Back of Your Car." He also sang, to much acclaim, a stripped-down version of REM's "Losing My Religion."

The self-taught musician who grew up with his parents' huge record collection started touring with a band as a teenager. When he embarked on a solo career in New York, he starred in some sold-out shows.

In an exclusive phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Ryan shared his two cents' worth on how a rock star should behave with the media.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

What was your immediate reaction on hearing Tommy Lee say you were the next to go?

That I should get my things together and move on.

How much did you believe you could be part of Supernova?

I had felt pretty strong because I was doing well.

We all know what happened to Dilana (Robichaux) after she told on the other rockers at a press junket. How candid should a rock star be in front of the media?

[Dilana] definitely paid the price for it. Then again, I might have paid a price, too, because I get to leave.

Being yourself is great but you have to be careful, especially with a band like that [Supernova] which has celebrity status.

I think you draw the line [between what to tell and not tell the media] when you might be getting someone in trouble.

You left your band, Stage, to build a solo career. Why did you try out for another band?

It was all about moving on. When ["Rock Star: Supernova"] came up while I was going solo, it was simply an amazing opportunity. I took it as far as I could.

Most of the rockers in the mansion claim you're all friends. How true is that?

DARK HORSE/ D2

A throne they can call their own

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THIS MONTH, ABS-CBN'S "STAR MAGIC presents" brightens Saturday afternoons (4:45 p.m. after "Let's Go!") with the Five Kings—**Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Sam Milby, John Lloyd Cruz** and **Zanjoe Marudo**—teaming up with new faces.

"I want to give others a chance to shine. *Never ko naisip kung ano ang meron ang iba na wala ako,*" says Piolo. Diet agrees. "It's never been an issue with me *kung sino ang mas sikat.*"

John Lloyd shares the sentiment. Sam and Zanjoe are both elated that they hit the big time so soon.

There's no competition among the five gorgeous guys. They call Sam "Hari ng Edsa." Diet and Lloydie say they are the "Kings of Charity." Piolo says he's the "King of Remittance" because he's now an endorser of a bank. Zanjoe would like to be called the "King of Love."

Seeing them seated together, I found it hard to decide who stood out. The Five Kings are not out to dethrone anyone. They each have a throne they can call their own.

'Love To Love'

GMA 7's "Love To Love" takes its final bow via a musical extravaganza dubbed "Jass Got Lucky" (Sundays after "SOP Gigsters") top-billed by **Cogie Domingo** and **Lovi Poe**. It's Cogie's comeback vehicle. *"I'm thankful that GMA is giving me another chance. I have Lovi to inspire me," he says.*

Lovi is getting started, Cogie is starting over. Looks like love is also beginning. Will it be a happy ending or never ending?

'Eternity'

THE LONG wait is over for romantic film buffs who have been waiting for Regal Entertainment's epic romance, "Eternity." It hits theaters tomorrow.

Here are the fave romantic films of the two love teams: **Iza Calzado**, "Love Affair"; **Dingdong Dantes**, "50 First Dates"; **Jennylyn Mercado**, "If Only"; **Mark Herras**, "Ghost."

'Crazy For You'

ROXANNE Guinoo and **John Prats** play lovers in ABS-CBN's latest teleserye "Crazy For You." I asked them what's the craziest thing they did for love. Roxanne says it was foregoing sleep because she made a scrapbook of her pics with **Joross Gamboa** and their souvenirs. For John, it was driving all the way to Cavite anytime of day or night just to be with **Heart Evangelista**, his GF back then.

Roxanne just split up with Joross. Will John help mend her broken heart? "*Di pwede maging kami* because friend *ko si* Joross," says John. Roxanne insists that their breakup was a mutual decision since they didn't have time for each other anymore. But what's this I heard that Joross fell for a pretty practicum student in ABS-CBN?

F.Y.I. (For Your Indulgence)

- At the shooting of Viva Films' "Reyna," **Keanna Reeves** and some of her gay co-stars playfully joined a newcomer boylet (who has a cameo role in the movie) inside the CR to see if he's really the stud that his sexy pictorials depict him to be.
- After taping of "Homeboy," **Mickey Ferriols** and **Archie Alemania** had an LQ because of their conflicting answers to one question: what their last fight was about. Archie said it was his "Wazzup" co-host (**Nina Dolino**). Mickey said there was none.

Watering Hole Idols

Wonder where some of the 24 finalists of "Philippine Idol" had been hiding before the competition? Watering Hole had at least four of them on its stage. Lounge singer and part-time model **Jeli Mateo** stands out.

Dubious Cable Ratings?

Is there really a great divide between cable and non-cable viewers when it comes to viewing preferences? Knowing that ABS-CBN, just like Sky and Home Cable, is owned by the Lopezes, and with ABS-CBN reportedly catching up on GMA's lead in the ratings game due primarily to Sky and Home Cable subscribers, cable ratings are now becoming more dubious.

On the other hand, ratings results coming from the other cable provider, Global Destiny, and from the non-cable viewers, clearly show GMA 7 still dominating the competition in both Metro and Mega Manila.

Personal: Happy Birthday to my darling daughter and best friend Bianchi! Growing up and growing old with you makes it all worthwhile.

B-day hugs to an angel of a friend Vanjie Kua of Belo Medical Group.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

ECS ELITEGROUP
ECS MOTHERBOARD
Action figure combo
Awesome gaming power
Get any 1 of these for Free
Philippine Ragnarok Online RPG
Character Figures
[crusader]
[sage]
or
World of Warcraft
Character Figures
[turen shaman]
[troll priest]
[undead warlock]

NForce4M-A (v1.1)

- Socket AM2 with AMD Athlon 64 FX/ Athlon 64 / Athlon 64 X2 Dual-Core/ Sempron processor
- Chipset: NVIDIA nForce4-4X single chip
- Supports 4 x 240-pin dual channel DDR2 800 DIMM socket support up to 32GB, FSB 2000 MTS, with built in LAN
- Integrated High Quality 6-channel audio
- 1 PCI Express x16 + 2 PCI Express x1 + 3 PCI Slots
- 4 SATA 11 and Raid 0, 1 and 0+1
- ATX Form Factor

C51GM-M

- Socket AM2 with AMD Athlon 64 FX/ Athlon 64 / Athlon 64 X2 Dual-Core/ Sempron processor
- Chipset: NVIDIA GeForce 6100 & nForce 410
- 2 Dimm for Dual DDR 400 memory up to 2GB , FSB 2000
- 1 x PCI Express x16 slot, 1 x PCI Express x1 slot. 2 x PCI slots
- Realtek ALC655 6-Channel audio CODEC
- Micro-ATX Size, 244mm*224mm

Level Up! Inc. Copyright © 2006 Gravity Corp. & Lee MyoungJin. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Promo Mechanics:
- This promo is open to all buyers of ECS NFORCE4M-A and C51GM-M motherboards.
- Every purchased of ECS NFORCE 4M-A or C51GM-M comes with 1(one) free Ragnarok or World of Warcraft character figure attached in the box.
- Promo starts on Sept 01 to Oct 01, 2006
- Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3178, Series of 2006
- Promo available at all authorized dealers nationwide with promo posters

Exclusive Distributor
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.
www.axisglobal.com

www.ecs.com.tw

Be careful what you search for.
NICOLAS CAGE
THE WICKER MAN
MILLENNIUM FILMS
DOLBY DIGITAL
EFF
SATURN FILMS

Release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG13 EXTREME CAUTION IS ADVISED FOR ADULTS TO ADVISE THE YOUNG AUDIENCE AGAINST THE NEGATIVE VALUES OF THE SECT THAT IS PORTRAYED IN THE MOVIE.

IN THEATERS TOMORROW

Dark horse crashes out

From page D1

You're friends but, at the same time, you're fighting for the prize.

But did you actually develop friendships?

Sure, with everybody, in a normal way. Everyone's great, everyone's talented, so definitely everyone had a special relationship.

Tell us about growing up in a family that loves music.

I was the only musician in the family but what it came down to was just having all the support. I felt I could do anything.

Who were your early musical influences?

For me it was the whole Seattle scene. I was 13 when Pearl Jam and Nirvana came out.

Do you plan to resume your solo career?

I'm going to get out there, tour and get a record out as quickly as possible.

Were you working on a record before "Rock Star"?

Yes, I was.

Will the record be released now?

Hopefully the exposure hands me up to a label.

What's the album like?

It [includes] solo piano songs and the same range [of my performances] on the show.

You seem passionate about the piano.

I love it because the notes are all there.

"Rock Star: Supernova" airs on Star World every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m., with replays every Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.

POISON IN HIS VEINS
VENGEANCE IN HIS BLOOD
HE'S 60 MINUTES AWAY
FROM LOSING HIS LIFE
AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES
THE TRANSPORTER IS BACK!
JASON STATHAM
CRANK

sneak previews

Robinsons Movieworld
galleria • ermita • pioneer
metro east • novaliches
starmills, san fernando pampanga
angeles

September 04 to 05
REGULAR Showing: September 13
Subject for MTRCB Rating

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

THE TRANSPORTER IS BACK!
JASON STATHAM
CRANK

Be among the first to watch at regular admission price

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
September 4 (Mon.) & 5 (Tue.)
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

VIVA Ayala glorietta GREENBELT TOWN

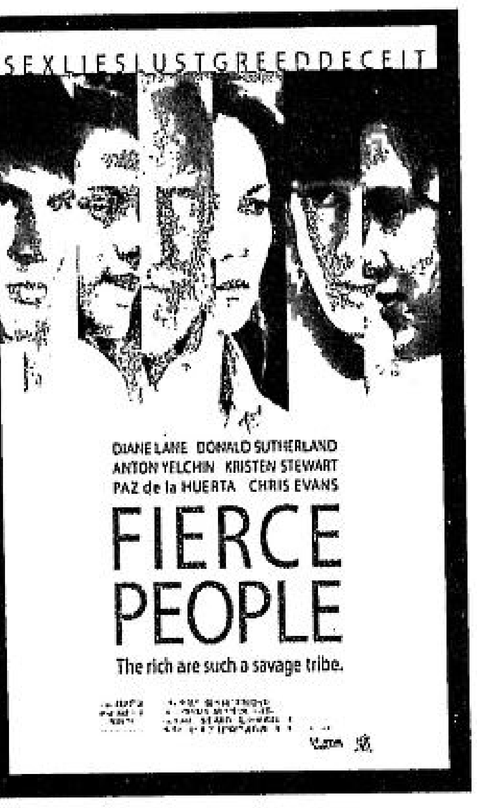
FIERCE PEOPLE:
A POWERFUL DRAMA
WITH A POWERHOUSE CAST

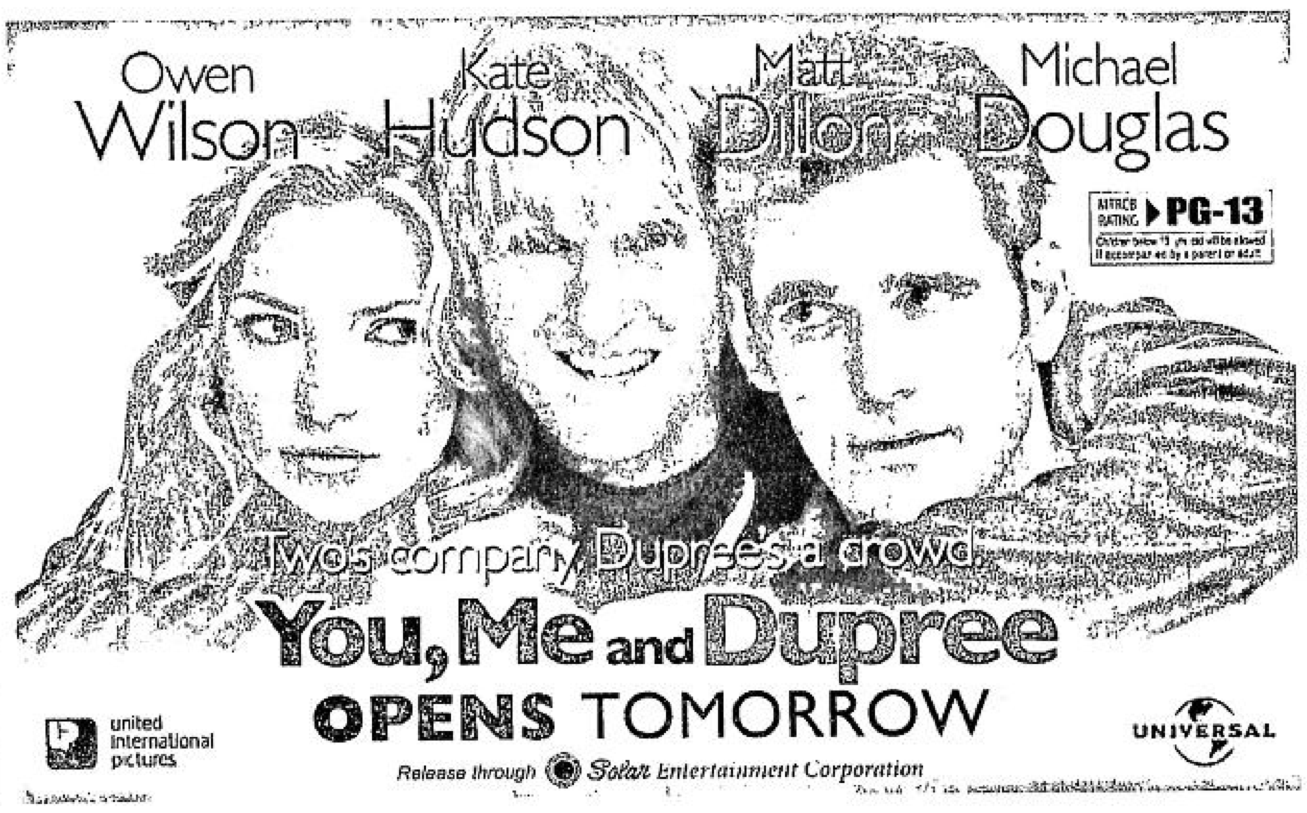
Could the rich be compared to a primitive tribe? Are vicious beasts lurking in suburban jungles? The new movie Fierce People examines the deceit and betrayal that erupts when a working-class mother and her son move to a wealthy, country club, suburb where social climbing is a blood sport.

Starring Oscar nominee Diane Lane, veteran actor Donald Sutherland, and promising actor Anton Yelchin, Fierce People is a bold drama about the dark secrets of America's elite where sex, drugs and violence abound.

Now Showing at
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
Starmills and Bacolod

MTRCB Rating: R-13
Approved without cuts


SEXLIESLUSTGREEDDECEIT
DIANE LANE DONALD SUTHERLAND
ANTON YELCHIN KRISTEN STEWART
PAZ de la HUERTA CHRIS EVANS
FIERCE PEOPLE
The rich are such a savage tribe.


Owen Wilson
Kate Hudson
Matt Dillon
Michael Douglas
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Two's company, Dupree's a crowd.
You, Me and Dupree
OPENS TOMORROW
united international pictures
Release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
UNIVERSAL

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 CRANK	4 YOU ARE THE ONE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 THX LITTLE MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LOST CITY	5 STAY ALIVE	6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	7 CRANK
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA / GERMAN FILMFEST					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CRANK 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:30, 9:25, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 CLICK 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LOST CITY 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:50, 4:15, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 CRANK	4 SNAKES ON A PLANE	5 LITTLE MAN		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 MORTUARY	3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	4 LITTLE MAN			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE	3 STAY ALIVE	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 CRANK		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Philippine Robotics September 7, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Grandparent's Day Launching with Sharon Cuneta September 7, 2006	Panoxil's Pimple Free, Cash Spree September 10, 2006

GREENBELT
Samba Nights at GB 2
September 13 & 27, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.
at REP's Globe Theater - Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710.

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
Extended until September 17, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

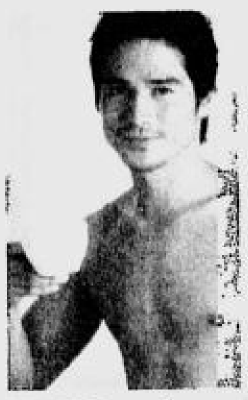
The 3rd German Silent Film Festival
presents
Asphalt
with music by Cynthia Alexander

on Tuesday, September 05, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE GREENBELT

Ayala Malls
KRIS LAWRENCE
MALL TOUR
Market! Market!
Activity Center
Sept. 2, Sat. 4pm
Pavilion Mall
Bridgeway Activity Ctr.
Sept. 3, Sun., 4:30pm
Metro Point Mall
Activity Center
Sept. 10, Sun., 4pm
STAR
Metro Point MALL
PAVILION mall
MARKET! MARKET!
Managed by Ayala Malls

RUSHES



PIOLO Pascual

Product pushers

BIG STARS CONTINUE to land the big ad deals. Piolo Pascual and Christian Bautista are the new endorsers for San Miguel Corp. products: Piolo for San Mig Coffee and Christian for SMC's new line of drinks (to be marketed throughout Asia, starting in Indonesia).

Boy, too

BOY Abunda, too, just recently signed up with The Lakeshore. It's not a brand of swim wear or sand box; it's real estate—community and commercial properties.

Willie R Day

From the office of the mayor of Las Vegas, Nevada, Oscar B. Goodman, this proclamation: September 3, 2006 as "Willie Revillame Day."

Does this mean Pinoys got to play "Pera o Bayong" on slot machines that day?

Vhong, wait!

VHONG Navarro is said to be trying on the very high stilettos of Fefita Fofonggay for a reported project. Think this over very well, Vhong.

Who's back?

GUESS who's back? "Flor de Luna," minus Janice de Belen, soon on ABS-CBN. Does this mean GMA 7 would resurrect "Anna Liza"?

Just ask

ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs reportedly irked Sharon Cuneta for airing—without permission—snapshots of her daughter KC Concepcion's US vacation with dad Gabby.

GMA 7 did, too, but only after obtaining KC's nod.

ELLEN DeGeneres

Scare list

COMEDIAN Ellen DeGeneres was asked about the scariest thing on her "life list" (basically things one wants to accomplish). The answer: "I don't want to wash my hair everyday."

Tom C: Sorry

BURBANK, California — Brooke Shields says Tom Cruise has apologized for publicly criticizing her use of antidepressants.

The 41-year-old actress says Cruise apologized in person Thursday last week.

"He came over to my house," Shields said during an appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

AP

SM CINEMA

SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

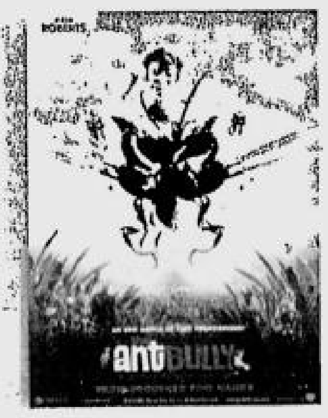
movietime SHOWTiME

SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*

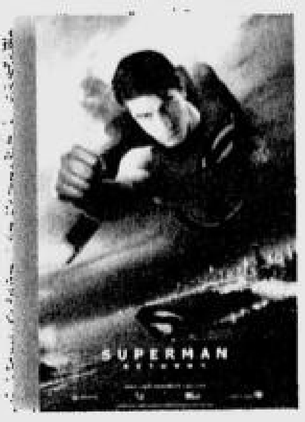
Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

NOW SHOWING AT SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE



See the entire movie in IMAX 3D
P 250 (Matinee, Mondays to Thursdays)
P 300 (From 5 p.m. onwards on weekdays and all screenings on weekends)



See select scenes in IMAX 3D
P 350 (Admission Price)

Please call 556-IMAX or 556 0242 for screening time and reservations

MTRCB Rating: G (General Audience)

IMAX is a registered trademark of the IMAX Corporation

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

EVEREST
11:00AM 7:00 PM

ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
1:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM
P200 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)

SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00PM Admission Price- P350

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND/ CLICK
4 LITTLE MAN
5 SNAKE ON A PLANE
6 CRANK

PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU ARE THYE ONE

DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

THE PODIUM

CINEMA 1
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CINEMA 2
LITTLE MAN/
YOU ARE THE ONE

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 SUKOB
10 STAY ALIVE
11 LITTLE MAN
12 CRANK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 CRANK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 LITTLE MAN
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 JUPIT
8 STAY ALIVE
9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 YOU ARE THE ONE
12 CLICK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 CRANK
2 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 SUKOB
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 MORTUARY
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 CRANK
6 CLICK
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 MORTUARY
9 SUKOB
10 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 CRANK
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 LITTLE MAN
8 STAY ALIVE
9 CLICK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 JUPIT
2 STAY ALIVE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY
11 CRANK
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 MORTUARY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 CRANK
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

movietime SNEAK PREVIEW

Watch the SNEAK PREVIEW at regular ticket prices on September 4 and 5

Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Manila, Megamall, Molino, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, Southmall

REGULAR SHOWING ON SEPTEMBER 13

Distributed by: VIVA

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MORTUARY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 SNAKES A ON PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 CRANK
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 LITTLE MAN
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 UNITED 93
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 MIAMI VICE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 CLICK
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 KUBRADOR
2 RESERVED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 STORMBREAKER
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

movietime PROMO

Now Share a movie with a loved one at SM Cinema

Buy two movie tickets and get a
FREE MOVIE
ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

Our way of thanking you for sharing your life with us.

Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period.
FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3440 Series of 2006

Megamall • North Edsa • Manila • Sta Mesa • San Lazaro • Sta Rosa • Las Pinas • Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan • Valenzuela • Molino • Bacoor
Dasmarinas • Batangas • Lucena • Marilao • Pampanga • Clark • Baguio • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • The Podium • Mall of Asia Cinemas

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CLICK • THX	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 YOU ARE THE ONE	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 STAY ALIVE	1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	12:00 2:20 4:40
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 RESERVED	
9 THE BIG WHITE	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40
10 LITTLE MAN	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 YOU ARE THE MAN	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 STAY ALIVE	12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9.50
4 SNAKE SON A PLANE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
5 LITTLE MAN	12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:00 9:50
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 CLICK	12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 TAMARA	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 SUKOB	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 YOU ARE THE ONE	12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10
4 LITTLE MAN	12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00
5 CLICK	12:40 2.45 4:50 6:55 9:00
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	12.40 2:45 4.50 6:55 9:00
7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE	11.50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

sneak previews

Robinsons Movieworld
galleria • ermita • pioneer
metro east • novaliches
starmills, san fernando pampanga
angeles

September 04 to 05

REGULAR Showing: September 13
Subject for MTRCB Rating

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 TAMARA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 MORTUARY
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 MORTUARY
6 MIAMI VICE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 FIERCE PEOPLE
6 CLICK

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 MIAMI VICE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call: Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
4th level Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
PREMIERE
CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 STORMBREAKER
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

THEATRES
LITTLE MAN
YOUR AR THE ONE
CLICK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
LITTLE MAN
YOUR AR THE ONE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STAY ALIVE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOUR AR THE ONE
6 LITTLE MAN
7 CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
9 MORTUARY
10 YOUR AR THE ONE

Blue Wave MARI-UNION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK
3 ALIPIN
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CLICK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 MIAMI VICE
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 STORMBREAKER
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 TAMARA

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CLICK
2 LADY IN THE WATER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 S. P. L.

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 THE BREAK UP
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CLICK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 OH MY GHOST

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 S. P. L.
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SEX EDUCATION
5 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 WHORE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
2 MASAKIT WAG IPILIT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NOW SHOWING *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

ANDY GARCIA
DUSTIN HOFFMAN
TOMAS MILIAN
BILL MURRAY
INES SASTRE
In a time of chaos... can love prevail...
THE LOST CITY

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

A film by Academy Award-nominee Andy Garcia

THE LOST CITY

An epic adventure of historic intrigue & timeless romance.

"Two Thumbs Up."
- Ebert & Roeper

"Sumptuous, Intoxicating...A Caribbean Doctor Zhivago."
-Steven Holden, New York Times

"The best movie I've seen so far this year"
-Todd Hill, Newhouse News

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

VIVA Ayala Malls glorietta GREENBELT

The THX experience.
Giving you more than the front seat.

A unique cinematic experience from the largest THX certified theatre operator in the country. Ayala Malls Cinemas

THX
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CINEPLEX*10 — FULL STADIUM SEATING

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	STAY ALIVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	YOU ARE THE ONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	GATEWAY LUMINOUS CINEMA
LITTLE MAN 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CLICK 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 1:30 / 3:30 / 5.30 / 7:30 / 9.30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CRANK 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:40 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 8:55

ALI MALL 5

1 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	2 CRANK 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45	3 MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
4 LITTLE MAN 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	5 SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

4 DAYS TO GO
MEET W SUPERSTAR BATISTA LIVE AT ARANETA CENTER

SEPT 8 • 4:00 PM MOTORCADE AROUND THE CENTER
4:30 PM ALI MALL
SEPT 9 • 1:30 PM FARMERS PLAZA
3:00 PM GATEWAY MALL

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!
THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

"This is an event. It is a rare example of a film not just living up to the hype, but surpassing it. And it is the best time you will have at the movies all summer, if not all year."
---*Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]*

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!

2ND WEEK
500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC
SNAKES ON A PLANE
NEW LINE CINEMA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

LITTLE MAN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

YOU ARE THE ONE
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
PG-13

CRANK
1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13 (P150)
12.00, 2.30, 5:00, 7.30, 10.00

② MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13 (P150)
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00

③ YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13 (P99.00)
12.05, 2.30, 4.55, 7.20, 9.45

④ SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13 (P 00.00)
1.00, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE — CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW) P170
1:40, 3.45, 5.50, 7:55, 10:00 (PG-13)

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(EXCEPT FOR DEVIL WEARS PRADA, CRANK AND MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14,
enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4.
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2000. See posters and flyers for details.
[illegible]

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — STAY ALIVE
11:40, 1:55, 4:05
6:15, 8:25, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 2 — SNAKES ON A PLANE // LITTLE MAN
11:45, 2:05, 4:20
// 6:15, 8:20, 10:25
PG-13 // R-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND+EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 — CRANK
11:20, 1:35, 3:50
6:05, 8:20, 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 4 — YOU ARE THE ONE
11:20, 2:00, 4:40
7:20, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 5 — THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11:35, 2:20, 5:05
7:50, 10:35
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

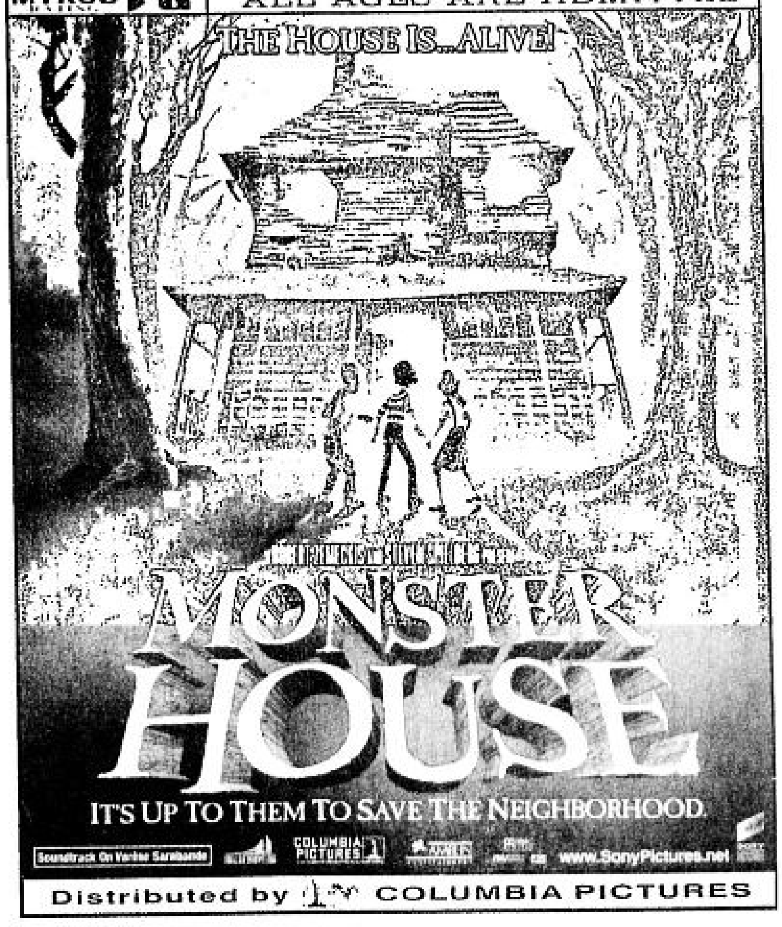
SEPT. 14, 2006	DANITA PANER	8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16, 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO : CLASSICO	8:00PM
Sept. 7,14,21,28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT PENA FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722 4532 LOC 116	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Produced by STEVEN SPIELBERG & ROBERT ZEMECKIS
FRIGHTFUL FUN BEGINS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED


THE HOUSE IS...ALIVE!
MONSTER HOUSE
IT'S UP TO THEM TO SAVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
Soundtrack On Varèse Sarabande
COLUMBIA PICTURES
www.SonyPictures.net

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND+EX

LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35	CRANK PG13 2:20,4:20,6:20, 8:20,10:20
YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SNAKES ON A PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440-41